

ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR KINSHIP SOFTWARE

Steve Niezgoda¹, Amanda Sozer¹, Lisa Forman²

¹*National Institute of Justice Contractor*

²*National Institute of Justice*



Most public DNA laboratories are unlikely to have all of the necessary tools in place to begin processing mass-fatality samples for victim identification. The cause of mass fatality, the number of victims, and the condition of remains form a unique combination of characteristics that will be specific to each mass fatality incident, so the response by the laboratory must be, to some degree, customized. A major aspect of planning a lab's approach should include anticipating the process flow, which is a critical component to rapid and successful identification of remains. While politicians, news media, and the victims' families may demand speed of DNA identifications, maintaining accuracy and reliable results must be the laboratory's first priority. Implementation of new procedures and software or modifications to existing methods to meet the new demands must be carefully balanced with rigorous, consistent assessments and well-documented validation.