

# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

## **THE ALEXIS'S LAW FRAMEWORK FOR FORENSIC ACCOUNTABILITY**

**Date:** June 2026

**Focus:** Legislative Reform for Cold Case Evidence Tracking, Preservation, and Accountability

### **1. Document Purpose and Scope**

This executive summary provides lawmakers, legislative staffers, and public safety stakeholders with a comprehensive overview of the Alexis's Law framework. The proposed legislation introduces mandatory, end-to-end electronic tracking for all forensic and biological evidence, establishes clear statutory processing timelines, ensures victim transparency, and creates an independent oversight mechanism to eliminate backlogs and secure the integrity of the justice system.

### **2. The Problem: Systemic Gaps in Forensic Infrastructure**

Modern criminal justice investigations, particularly cold cases, are severely hindered by structural vulnerabilities within the forensic evidence pipeline. These vulnerabilities directly contribute to delayed justice, unpunished offenses, and prolonged trauma for victims' families. The primary deficiencies include:

**Information and Jurisdictional Silos:** Forensic evidence frequently transitions between municipal property rooms, county sheriffs' departments, and centralized state forensic laboratories. Without a unified ledger, tracking evidence becomes fragmented, creating administrative blind spots.

**Evidence Loss and Premature Destruction:** Due to inconsistent local retention policies and a lack of centralized auditing, critical biological samples risk being misplaced or prematurely destroyed before advanced testing, such as investigative genetic genealogy, can be applied.

**Unmanaged Laboratory Backlogs:** The absence of strict, statutory turnaround mandates allows critical kits and evidence to languish in storage, causing investigative windows to close while repetitive violent offenders remain unidentified.

### **3. The Solution: Core Pillars of Alexis's Law**

Alexis's Law addresses these vulnerabilities by converting standard administrative best practices into legally binding statutory requirements. The framework is built upon four fundamental operational pillars designed to enforce comprehensive accountability: Policy Pillar, Statutory Mandate and Functional Mechanics

| Policy Pillar                           | Statutory Mandate and Functional Mechanics                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Universal Electronic Tracking Portal | Establishes a unified, secure state-level digital ledger. Requires every agency to utilize electronic barcode or RFID tracking for all biological evidence from initial collection to final disposition, ensuring an unalterable digital chain of custody. |
| 2. Strict Processing Timelines          | Imposes explicit statutory deadlines (e.g., mandatory submission within 10 days of collection and lab processing within 90 days) to prevent backlog accumulation and prioritize urgent or historically significant cold case materials.                    |
| 3. Victim and Survivor Transparency     | Grants certified victims, survivors, or designated next-of-kin legal right-to-know privileges via a secure, password-protected lookup mechanism to review major evidence tracking milestones without compromising operational investigative details.       |
| 4. Independent Compliance Auditing      | Empowers a non-partisan, statewide Forensic Accountability Commission to execute unannounced, comprehensive physical audits of municipal evidence repositories and state laboratories to guarantee reporting accuracy.                                     |

#### 4. Public Safety and Economic Justification

Enacting this framework yields significant long-term operational and societal benefits:

**Enhanced Public Safety:** Formalized tracking accelerates DNA profile uploads to state and national databases (CODIS), identifying serial offenders quickly and preventing future violent crimes.

**Fiscal and Operational Efficiency:** While initial implementation requires upfront investment in software integration and training, long-term costs decrease through reduced manual data entry, minimized litigation risks regarding chain of custody, and optimized storage tracking.

**Restoring Public Trust:** Providing transparent milestones to families restores faith in institutional investigation processes and ensures victims are never left in administrative dark zones.

#### 5. Conclusion and Legislative Request

The Alexis's Law framework transforms fragmented administrative practices into a unified system of accountability, transparency, and efficiency. We respectfully request your office to champion this legislation, co-sponsor upcoming proposals, and advocate for the necessary statutory changes to deliver accountability to cold case victims and their families.