

Q&A: THE ALEXIS'S LAW FRAMEWORK

Subject: Addressing Common Policy, Operational, and Fiscal Inquiries Regarding Forensic Accountability Legislation

SECTION 1: General Purpose and Scope

Q1: What gap in the current criminal justice system does Alexis's Law address?

Currently, many states lack a centralized, legally binding mandate for tracking forensic evidence from collection to final disposition. Evidence routinely shifts across local municipal property rooms, county sheriffs' departments, and state laboratories using fragmented paper records or localized software silos. This lack of standard tracking allows vital cold case biological evidence to be misplaced, backlogged, or prematurely destroyed. Alexis's Law replaces this fragmented approach with a mandatory, unified statewide tracking system.

Q2: How does this framework specifically aid cold case investigations?

Cold cases often fail due to historical shifts in personnel or lost documentation regarding where older biological evidence is stored. By mandating a secure, permanent electronic ledger and an independent annual audit, Alexis's Law ensures that legacy case evidence is systematically accounted for, preserved, and easily searchable when modern testing methodologies—such as investigative genetic genealogy—become available.

SECTION 2: Fiscal Impact and Implementation Costs

Q3: What are the projected up-front costs for implementing this framework?

Up-front expenditures are primarily technical, focusing on software deployment to establish the central tracking hub and provisioning barcode or RFID scanners to local departments. However, because many jurisdictions already possess basic computing infrastructure, implementation focuses on integrating existing hardware into a secure, state-managed cloud pipeline rather than purchasing entirely new technical networks.

Q4: How does this legislation pay for itself over time?

The long-term economic dividends are substantial. Promptly testing and uploading biological profiles into national databases catches serial offenders early, averting millions of dollars in future trial costs, medical expenses, and ongoing investigative hours. Additionally, automating the evidence management system reduces manual labor for property room clerks and minimizes the significant litigation costs associated with chain-of-custody tracking disputes during trials.

Section 3: Operational and Staffing Impact

Q5: Will the strict statutory timelines place an undue administrative burden on understaffed police departments?

No. In practice, electronic tracking saves law enforcement hours. Scanning a digital barcode or RFID chip takes seconds, eliminating the tedious, error-prone manual paper spreadsheets that officers currently fill out. The framework simplifies administrative steps by providing a uniform, automated tracking sequence that seamlessly integrates into standard police logging workflows.

Q6: What happens if a state laboratory or law enforcement agency cannot meet a processing timeline due to unexpected surges?

The framework includes realistic administrative escape valves. If an agency encounters an extraordinary surge in volume or a technical outage, they can submit a formal transparency waiver to the Independent Forensic Accountability Commission. This mechanism documents the bottleneck transparently and lets the legislature allocate targeted resources to clear the temporary surge, rather than allowing backlogs to compound in secret.

Section 4: Information Security and Privacy

Q7: Does the victim and survivor tracking portal compromise active, confidential investigative data?

Absolutely not. The survivor portal functions similarly to a commercial parcel tracker. It displays only high-level administrative milestones (e.g., "Evidence Collected," "Received by Laboratory," "Testing Complete"). It completely restricts access to sensitive investigative narratives, suspect names, DNA profiles, or operational strategies, ensuring absolute compliance with open investigation privacy mandates.

Q8: Who is permitted to access the data stored in the centralized system?

Access is strictly governed by role-based authentication. Certified law enforcement personnel and laboratory technicians can view data relevant to their jurisdictional responsibilities. The entire system is built on encrypted federal information security standards (CJIS compliance), protecting data integrity against unauthorized external exposure.

Perceived Hesitation	Statutory Reality / Response
"It costs too much."	Initial costs are offset by long-term labor reductions, minimized litigation, and the massive fiscal benefits of taking serial offenders off the streets sooner.
"It burdens local officers."	Digital barcode scanning replaces hours of paper tracking and manual audits, returning valuable time to active street patrols.
"It leaks case secrets."	The portal only tracks generic location milestones, leaving sensitive investigative intelligence completely sealed from public or outside view.