

Forensic Genetic Genealogical DNA Analysis and Search (FGGS) Virtual Panel Meeting

February 4, 2026

A wooden-framed letterboard with a black felt surface is centered on a rustic wooden table. The word "Welcome" is written in white, sans-serif capital and lowercase letters. To the bottom left is a vintage orange rotary telephone. To the top right is a green leafy plant and a portion of a vintage typewriter.

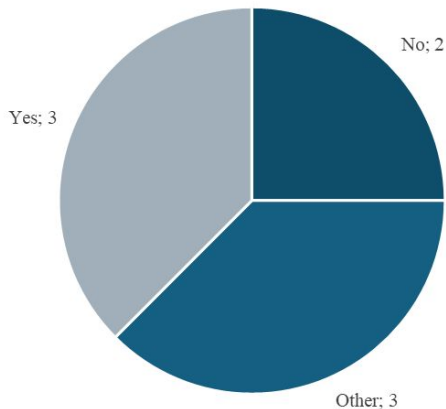
Welcome

Overview of Sub-Panel Meetings

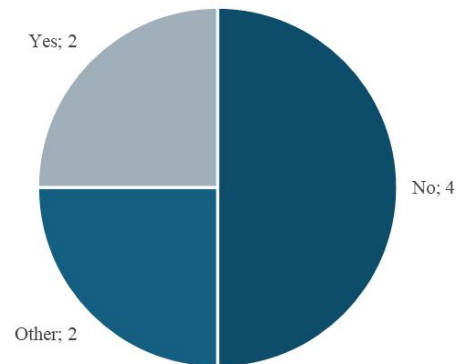
- Qualtrics survey results
- Create surveys to gather information
- Reconvene the Forensic Laboratory Advisory Committee (FLAC)
- Establish a licensing board to receive the FLAC's recommendations

October 24, 2025 Sub-Panel Meeting

Should Maryland Require IGG Accreditation Exam? (n = 8)



Should Maryland Partner with IGGAB to Require IGG Accreditation Exam? (n = 8)



October 24, 2025: Follow-Up Items

Future Need

- Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy to survey to law enforcement to gather insight on FGGS-related case work.
- Laboratory directors to gather information from laboratories regarding their engagement with forensic investigative genetic genealogy (FIGG).

Immediate Need

- Maryland Department of Health to take the issue of meeting with the FLAC to the administration to identify efforts to move the drafts forward.
- Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy to take the issue of who needs to authorize the FLAC meeting up the chain, and report back.

December 15, 2025 Sub-Panel Meeting

Maryland Department of Health

- Executive Director emailed the FLAC Chair to schedule 2026 meetings, and to resume the work under House Bill 240/Senate Bill 187. Office of Health Care Quality to move into active coordination and resume work on the regulatory components associated with [§ 17-104](#), based on the FLAC Chair's availability.

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy

- Director of Policy and Legislation contacted the Maryland Department of Health's Director of Governmental Affairs on the status of the FLAC, and learned that a licensing board must be established under [§ 17-104\(a\)](#) to receive the FLAC's recommendations on the drafts, however, no budget appropriation provided.

December 15, 2025: Follow-Up Items

- Reach out to the bill sponsors to gather more insight about the licensing board requirement, and share the provided insight with the group.
- Research other states for similar models.

Efforts to Address Identified Needs

Background



Identified Needs and Information

1. Information on the destruction of covertly collected samples
2. Finalize the draft FIGG licensing requirements and regulations
3. Add data elements on the date an affidavit is requested and approved
4. Include year-over-year case information in annual reports
5. Develop resource materials to illustrate and explain the FGGS process
6. Identify funding opportunities for laboratories to process FGGS requests

#1. Destruction of Covertly Collected Samples

Coming Soon!

#2. Licensing Requirements and Regulations

- Prior sub-panel meetings included a review of the survey results regarding if Maryland should require the IGG Accreditation Exam and partner with the Investigative Genetic Genealogy Accreditation Board to require the IGG Accreditation Exam as a component of the draft licensing regulations; and the efforts to reconvene the FLAC.
- Next sub-panel meeting to discuss insight regarding the licensing board requirement, if other states have a similar model, and the steps to move forward.

#3. Data Elements

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy updated the data definitions and reporting guide to request information on four new measures in order to provide additional insight on cases.

- Requested affidavit date
- Prosecutor approved affidavit date
- Judge approved affidavit date
- Origination of evidence

#4. Year-Over-Year Case Information

Coming Soon!

#5. Resource Materials

Forensic Genetic Genealogical DNA Analysis and Search (FGGS): Pre- and Post-Authorization Process document reflects updated information, as of January 2026.

- Evidence sample collection
- Covert putative perpetrator sample collection
- Voluntary third party sample collection
- Covert third party sample collection

#6. Funding Opportunities

- [U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance](#) recently released two funding opportunities, however, they do not relate to forensic sciences.
- Forensic sciences-related funding opportunities to be shared with the panel once it becomes available.

Discussion

Recommendations



Recommendation to Improve Data Collection

- Should the panel distribute the updated Forensic Genetic Genealogical DNA Analysis and Search (FGGS): Pre- and Post-Authorization Process document to law enforcement agencies?
- Should the panel survey law enforcement agencies to identify if agencies destroyed any covertly collected samples?
- Should the panel consider other recommendations to improve data collection?



Q

&

A



Thank You