



BA-205 LEGAL DNA COLLECTION GUIDE

A RESOURCE FOR ATTORNEYS

Accurate results begin with a proper collection. This guide outlines the legal DNA collection process, accepted methods, requirements, and best practices to ensure samples are admissible in court.

BEACON
ATTORNEY
RESOURCE
SERIES



 **PROPER COLLECTION.
SECURE HANDLING.
DEFENSIBLE RESULTS.**

 Accurate

 Court-Admissible

 Secure

 Professional

ABOUT BEACON

Beacon Specimen Collection Services is a nurse-led, mobile collection company serving North Alabama. We follow strict chain of custody protocols to ensure samples are collected, documented, and delivered in accordance with court requirements.

KEY PRINCIPLES

- **Integrity**
Protect the sample from contamination or tampering.
- **Documentation**
Complete all forms accurately and in full.
- **Chain of Custody**
Maintain continuous accountability of the sample.
- **Confidentiality**
Protect participant privacy at every step.
- **Professionalism**
Follow industry standards and treat all parties with respect.

ACCEPTED LEGAL DNA COLLECTION METHODS

**BUCCAL
(CHEEK SWAB)**

- Most common method
- Non-invasive and painless
- High quality DNA yield
- Preferred method unless otherwise directed

**BLOOD
(VENIPUNCTURE)**

- Collected by a trained professional
- Requires sterile technique
- Use EDTA tube

**HAIR WITH
FOLLICLE**

- Collect 8–10 hairs with visible follicle
- Do not cut hair
- Place in paper envelope

**FINGERNAIL
CLIPPINGS**

- Collect 5–10 clippings
- Use clean clippers
- Place in paper envelope

 Buccal (cheek swab) collection is the preferred method unless otherwise directed by the attorney or testing laboratory.

COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

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- ✓ Verify all participant photo IDs (government-issued).
 - ✓ Confirm participants understand the process and have provided consent.
 - ✓ Ensure all required participants are present.
 - ✓ Collect samples using approved methods.
 - ✓ Complete all documentation in full (legibly and accurately).
 - ✓ Label sample container(s) with unique ID.
 - ✓ Seal sample in tamper-evident packaging.
 - ✓ Complete Chain of Custody (COC) form – all signatures obtained.
 - ✓ Provide copies of all documents to appropriate parties.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Samples collected outside of accepted standards or without proper documentation may be rejected by the laboratory and/or deemed inadmissible in court.



BEST PRACTICES

 Use a clean, quiet collection environment.

 Verify identity at the time of collection.

 Document with photos when applicable.

 Ensure all signatures are complete.

 Seal and ship promptly to the laboratory.

 Contact Beacon with any questions or concerns.



QUESTIONS OR READY TO SCHEDULE?
Contact Beacon Specimen Collection Services today.



We partner with attorneys to deliver accurate results you can rely on.

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