


<p>RABUN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE</p>  <p>General Order Number: 7.12</p>	<p>Date of Issue</p> <p>02/23/2016</p>	<p>Effective Date</p> <p>02/23/2016</p>	<p>Revision Date</p>
<p>Subject: COLD CASES</p>	<p>Amends:</p>	<p>Rescinds:</p>	
<p>Index as: Cold Cases</p>	<p>CALEA Standards:</p> <p>State Certification Standards:</p>		
<p>Special Instructions:</p>			

PURPOSE

To ensure that unsolved crimes against persons cases (cold cases), new or old, are reviewed at least on a 5 year cycle. Cases may or may not have a suspect named at the time of the crime or developed during the original investigation. With the advent of improving DNA testing and other forensic technologies, cold cases once considered unsolvable will be reviewed.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Rabun County Sheriff's Office to review all cases meeting the cold case criteria on a 5-year cycle. On at least a semi-annual basis, a cold case file report will be generated and be reviewed by the Criminal Investigations Commander or designee.

DEFINITION:

Cold cases in this section are defined as violent "crime against person" cases, new or old, that have not been solved.

I. EVALUATION CRITERIA:

The evaluation criteria of re-investigating a cold case generally includes the following but is not limited to:

1. Legal considerations such as the application or expansion of statutes of limitation;
2. Technological considerations, such as the nature and condition of the evidence and the advancement of new technology techniques in solving a crime;
3. Practical considerations, such as the availability of witnesses in the event DNA profile testing would identify a suspect and lead to an arrest and trial;
4. Resource considerations, such as time, money and personnel available for investigation and forensic analysis.

II. ACTION AND ACTIVITIES:

The actions and activities of the cold case investigation generally include, but are not limited to:

1. Identifying potential unsolved cases according to solvability factors;
2. Reviewing case files, evidence logs, laboratory reports and autopsy reports;
3. Evaluating case evidence for potential probative DNA sources;
4. Consulting with the state forensic laboratory and state attorney's office in submitting appropriate evidence to the laboratory for testing;
5. Continuing investigative protocol by obtaining reference samples from suspects and other identified subject;
6. Identifying witnesses who are willing to proceed in prosecution;
7. If a DNA profile does not match suspect's DNA profile, submitting the evidence profile to CODIS; and/or
8. Submitting investigative intelligence to State and Federal profiling repositories for information such as: VICAP (FBI's Violent Criminal Apprehension Program) and/or RISS (Regional Information Sharing System).

III. COLD CASE REVIEW(S):

1. All cases meeting the cold case criteria will be reviewed at least on a five (5) year cycle. Nothing prevents a case from being opened any time information becomes available that may further the investigation.
2. At least semi-annually, the Criminal Investigations Captain or designee will generate a report against all cases meeting cold case criteria. This process requires that the Division Captain, or designee, review the new information and make a determination as to what course of action is appropriate. The available options are to:
 - a. Acknowledge a review of the information in supplemental form but take no action;
 - b. Reopen the case as an active investigation.



By Order of the Sheriff: **Chad K. Nichols**
Sheriff, Rabun County