



# Standard Operating Procedure

Effective Date

**October 22, 2020**

Number

**(UCU-1)**

Subject

## **Unresolved Cases Unit**

The Massachusetts State Police recognizes the National Institute of Justice definition of cold case as “any case whose probative investigative leads have been exhausted” (National Institute of Justice, 2017). Further, a cold case is an unresolved homicide, sexual assault, missing persons, or unidentified human remains investigation in which all available leads have been followed, new information has ceased, and there have been no person(s) charged or prosecuted for the underlying investigation. In addition to all probative investigative leads being exhausted, the case must be at least one year old. What was formerly referred to as a Cold Case shall be referred to as an Unresolved Case.

The criteria for determining the activation of an unresolved case by the Unresolved Cases Unit is based on a review of any unresolved case by the District Attorney of jurisdiction, the State Police Detective Unit assigned to that District Attorney’s office, and the Unresolved Cases Unit. The review should include a discussion of solvability factors such as:

1. There is a known suspect and physical evidence appears to have been preserved,
2. There is no known suspect but physical evidence has been preserved,
3. There is a known suspect and physical evidence is lacking or not preserved in a manner that facilitates reexamination through advanced technology, or
4. There is no known suspect and physical evidence is lacking.

All investigative reports and actions will be documented in ACISS, and any paper files will be stored at the District Attorney’s office or SPDU.

### **Severability Clause**

If any part contained within this SOP is later determined to be illegal, incorrect, inapplicable, or conflicts with Department rules, regulations, policy and/or procedure, then the Department directive shall prevail. This finding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the SOP.

### **References/ Attachments**

National Institute of Justice, 2017  
MPAC: 42.2.9

Promulgated By:

*Lt Robert*

Section/Unit Commander