



# Northeastern Illinois Regional Crime Laboratory

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Thank you for your interest in joining the Northeastern Illinois Regional Crime Laboratory.

The laboratory is organized as an intergovernmental cooperative (*5 ILCS 220 et seq*) and was formed over 50 years ago in a cooperative effort by five law enforcement agencies in Lake and Cook counties. It provides accurate, objective and timely forensic services to 59 law enforcement agencies, located in Lake, Cook, Will, McHenry and Kane counties. These law enforcement agencies govern the laboratory's operations and fund those operations through annual fees based primarily on the service population of those agencies. The top level of governance of the laboratory is conducted by the laboratory Executive Board. It is comprised of five police chiefs elected by representatives of the laboratory's member agencies.

The laboratory is accredited to *ISO/IEC 17025:2017* international testing laboratory standards by the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) and uses generally accepted laboratory practices as it provides forensic services in drug identification, toxicology, forensic biology, DNA analysis, firearms and tool mark examination, footwear examination, tire track examination and latent print analysis. The strength of the laboratory is its highly trained and experienced staff of 14 (12.7 FTE) scientific personnel who provide these forensic services in a 10,000 square foot facility in Vernon Hills, IL for a population of over 1.6 million Illinois citizens. The number of agencies and the population served continue to grow due to the high quality of analysis and the outstanding turn-around times provided by the laboratory.

With this experienced and dedicated staff, the laboratory can respond quickly to your critical and high-profile cases to help develop timely investigative leads. Initial screening of sexual assault evidence most often occurs within a week of submission. The laboratory staff provides training opportunities in impression evidence detection and collection for member agency staff, quarterly presentations on laboratory testing capabilities, quarterly reports on laboratory performance as well as annual gun and drug destruction services.

Annual membership fees are assessed primarily on the population of the law enforcement agency's service area. Currently, the assessment rate is at \$1.39 per person. This rate has been approved by the lab's governing board to increase to \$1.42 per person on May 1, 2021. There is an additional annual facility assessment which is currently \$3,000. Lastly, it is expected that new census data will be incorporated into the membership fee when it becomes available. Assessment fees can be pro-rated based on your start date and your fiscal year.



Joining the laboratory membership requires authorization by the Executive Board and an executed Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). The IGA and the Laboratory Constitution and Bylaws are available for your review on the homepage of the NIRCL website. Please find additional information such as Quarterly Reports, governing board meeting agenda and minutes, current submission policies and training opportunities there as well.

One of the critical responsibilities of laboratory management is to ensure that the laboratory maintains its ability to meet the high expectations of our current membership for timely and high-quality forensic services. To that end, it is very helpful to have a complete understanding of your agency's expected needs of the laboratory.

Please contact Executive Director Phil Kinsey at [pkinsey@nircl.org](mailto:pkinsey@nircl.org) or (847) 362-0676 x102 to discuss your current and future forensic service needs.