

Cold Case Register

This Act defines a “cold case” as a homicide or a felony sexual offense that remains unsolved for one year or more after being reported to a law enforcement agency and one that has no viable and unexplored investigatory leads. The Act requires law enforcement agencies create registries of the names of cold case victims, their family members, and their legal representatives. It directs law enforcement agencies to notify such people when the agencies set up the registries. The bill requires the information in cold case registries be held for three years and it requires law enforcement agencies make reasonable efforts to notify registrants when that timeframe expires for their information. The Act requires law enforcement agencies keep registrants’ information an additional three years when registrants ask for such an extension. It requires law enforcement agencies give priority to cases in the registries and directs the agencies to provide registrants with information about new developments or reviews of their cases.

Submitted as:

Arizona

[Chapter 132 of 2009](#)

Status: Enacted into law in 2009.

Suggested State Legislation

(Title, enacting clause, etc.)

1 Section 1. [*Short Title.*] This Act shall be cited as the “Cold Case Register Act.”

2

3 Section 2. [*Cold Case; Definition and Register.*]

4 (A) As used in this Act, “Cold case” means a homicide or a felony sexual offense that
5 remains unsolved for one year or more after being reported to a law enforcement agency and that
6 has no viable and unexplored investigatory leads.

7 (B) A law enforcement agency that has a cold case shall establish and maintain a cold
8 case register. The cold case register shall consist of the names of any victim, victim’s family
9 member or other lawful representative of a victim of a cold case who requests that the person’s
10 name be included in the cold case register.

11 (C) A law enforcement agency that maintains a cold case register shall provide notice of
12 the law enforcement agency’s cold case register to any victim, victim’s family member, or other
13 lawful representative of a victim of a cold case.

14 (D) A law enforcement agency that maintains a cold case register shall provide cold case
15 registrants with the contact information for the law enforcement agency, information in a timely
16 manner about any new developments or reviews of the cold case, and encourage registrants to
17 contact the law enforcement agency if the registrant is aware of any new information related to
18 the cold case.

19 (E) The name of a victim, a victim’s family member or any other lawful representative of
20 a victim shall remain in the register for [three years]. The law enforcement agency shall make
21 reasonable efforts to provide notice to the registrant of the end of the [three-year] period. On
22 request, the law enforcement agency shall extend the person's registration for an additional [three
23 years].

24 (F) A law enforcement agency shall give priority to any cold case that is associated with a
25 name in the cold case register unless there is a compelling reason to give priority to a cold case
26 that is not associated with a name in the cold case register.

27 (G) The cold case register is not a public record and is exempt from [insert citation].

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29 Section 3. [*Severability.*] [Insert severability clause.]

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31 Section 4. [*Repealer.*] [Insert repealer clause.]

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33 Section 5. [*Effective Date.*] [Insert effective date.]