



# ***FORENSIC ODONTOLOGIST***

**Dr Uon Sandiford.  
Assoc. Deg Pharmacy,  
Doctor of Medical Dentistry,  
Post Grad Dip Forensic Odontology.  
MBA.**



***Imagine lying through your teeth, but  
your teeth don't lie***

A composite image on the left side of the slide. The top portion shows a pair of eyepieces from a microscope, looking down at a DNA gel electrophoresis image. The gel shows multiple lanes with various colored bands (red, green, blue, yellow) representing DNA fragments. The background is a light blue and white grid.

## ***Who is a Forensic Odontologist ?***

- A Forensic Odontologist is a Dental Specialist who plays a crucial role in the field of Forensic Science.
- Their primary responsibility is to apply their dental expertise to identify human remains, often in cases where traditional methods such as finger-printing or DNA analysis may not be feasible or effective.

# Roles...

- Here are some of the key roles and responsibilities of a forensic odontologist:

## *Human Remains Identification:*

Forensic odontologists help identify human remains by examining dental records, X-rays, and other dental characteristics.

This identification can be critical in cases of mass disasters, accidents, or crimes.

## ***Bite Mark Analysis:***

Forensic Odontologists analyze bite marks found on victims, suspects, or objects at crime scenes.

They compare these bite marks to dental impressions or records to identify potential suspects.

## *Rape cases*

- Forensic odontologists may be called upon to analyze bite marks in cases of assault or sexual assault.


## ***Age Estimation:***

- Dental records and the state of a person's teeth can provide valuable information for estimating the age of unidentified individuals, especially in cases involving skeletal remains.



## *Dental Records Comparison:*

Forensic odontologists compare the dental records of the deceased or missing individuals with antemortem (before death) dental records to establish a positive identification.



This process involves examining dental charts, X-rays, and other records.

## ***Expert Testimony:***



- Forensic odontologists often serve as expert witnesses in court cases, providing testimony regarding their findings and conclusions.
- They may be called upon to explain their methods and help the legal system understand the significance of dental evidence.

***Disaster  
Victim  
Identification:***

- In cases of mass disasters, such as airplane crashes or natural disasters, forensic odontologists play a vital role in identifying victims through dental records and post-mortem dental examinations.

## *Training and Education:*

- Many forensic odontologists are also involved in teaching and training other forensic professionals and dental students in the principles and techniques of forensic odontology.

A laboratory setting with several glass pipettes hanging from the top left, dispensing liquid into a multi-well microplate below. The background is a soft-focus green and blue. A blue and black graphic element separates the image from the text on the right.

## ***Research:***

- Some forensic odontologists engage in research to develop new techniques, improve identification methods, and contribute to the advancement of forensic science.

# Summary

- Overall, forensic odontologists assist law enforcement agencies, medical examiners, and the legal system in identifying individuals, solving crimes, and providing closure to families in cases involving unidentified remains or dental evidence.
- Their expertise in dental forensics is a critical component of the broader field of forensic science.



*THANK YOU.*

**ANY QUESTIONS / COMMENTS/ CLARIFICATIONS ?**