Today, all 50 states have DNA access laws providing at least some wrongly convicted people with claims of innocence the legal means to request DNA testing.

When the Innocence Project was founded, not one of the 50 states had a law to help wrongly convicted people access DNA testing to prove their innocence.

But many DNA access laws have limitations:

- **Confessions/Guilty Pleas**: Applicants who confessed or pled guilty are denied testing (30% of DNA exonerees pled guilty or confessed).
- **Incarceration Requirements**: Applicants who are no longer incarcerated are denied testing even if they are still on parole or sex offender registries.
- **Conviction Requirements**: Only applicants with certain types of felony convictions, for example rape or murder, can apply for testing.
- **Time and Date Requirements**: Applicants who file after a certain date or allotted amount of time are denied testing.
- **No Right to Appeal**: Applicants are unable to appeal a decision denying access to testing.

For case examples and more about the laws, see [www.innocenceproject.org/DNA](http://www.innocenceproject.org/DNA)