



# Cold Case Project of Monterey County



## About Us

The Cold Case Project of Monterey County, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization led by an all-volunteer team, was established to address the financial challenges faced by Monterey County law enforcement in sustaining their efforts to solve cold cases.

The high cost of advanced forensic analysis, coupled with the sheer number of unsolved cases, threatens to delay resolution for victims and their families. By providing financial support, the Cold Case Project of Monterey County ensures that local agencies can access crucial resources, empowering investigators to pursue justice without being hindered by prohibitive costs.

We rely on community support to continue this vital work.

[www.coldcasesmonterey.org](http://www.coldcasesmonterey.org)

## Services We Fund

- **Unsolved Homicides:** There are over 600 unsolved homicides in Monterey County.
- **Long Term Missing Persons:** There are 38 long-term missing persons cases in Monterey; some of them may involve unsolved homicides.
- **Unsolved Sexual Assaults:** There are dozens of unsolved sexual assaults in Monterey County where potential forensic evidence exists.
- **Unidentified Human Remains:** The Monterey County Coroner's Office has records of over 50 cases of Unidentified Human Remains (UHRs) having been found in Monterey County dating back to the 1960's. Some of these cases involve victims of homicide.
- **Investigative Leads:** Funding will not pay for salaries, overtime or administrative costs. On a case-by-case basis, funds may be used for other investigative purposes.



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FOUNDATION FOR  
MONTEREY COUNTY.  
TAX ID #94-1615897



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## CLOSED CASE EXAMPLES

### 1979

In 1979, two separate women were murdered within a 15-day interval. Both victims were discovered deceased in their respective apartments in the City of Marina, residences located across the street from one another. The attacks took place within the victims' bedrooms. Although a potential suspect was identified during the initial investigation in 1979, direct evidence linking him to the murders was not available. In 2024, the District Attorney's Cold Case Task Force successfully utilized advanced forensic analysis to connect the suspect directly to both homicides, thereby resolving these long-standing cases. The cost associated with this forensic analysis was \$30,000.

### 1981

In 1981, the homicide of a young woman occurred within her residence in Carmel. The investigation revealed that the victim had been sexually assaulted. The case subsequently became a cold case and remained unresolved for several decades. Utilizing modern DNA analysis, investigators were able to directly link an individual to the crime. The subject was convicted by a jury in 2023 and sentenced to life imprisonment. The forensic analysis conducted in this case incurred costs exceeding \$28,000.

### 1982

The abduction, sexual assault, and murder of a 5-year-old girl took place in Seaside in January 1982, as she walked to her kindergarten class. This case became cold and remained unsolved for many years. In 2020, the District Attorney's Cold Case Task Force reopened the file. Utilizing advanced testing performed by private forensic labs, investigators were able to identify and arrest a suspect. This individual later pleaded guilty to the crime in 2025. The total cost for the advanced forensic testing in this case was over \$28,000.

These cases exemplify the significant potential for resolving cold cases through the application of modern forensic analysis. However, funding requirements place a substantial burden on local law enforcement agency budgets. It is precisely this critical funding gap that the Cold Case Project of Monterey County was established to address.

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MONTEREY COUNTY COLD CASE PROJECT



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