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Texas now requires the use of a national database which uses fingerprints, DNA and dental records to solve missing and unidentified persons cases – a direct result of this KXAN coverage. Before our reporting, only ten states had passed laws mandating police and medical examiners to enter case details to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System or NamUs – but not Texas, even though it's based in Fort Worth. Two Texas families and a newly-elected lawmaker were determined to help others looking for loved ones, using our research and stories to help push a bill through the state legislature to do just that – a new law effective September 1, 2021. This coverage is the culmination of more than two years of research and reporting. In addition to multiple on-air reports, this project included an immersive digital article with a reporter engagement discussion and an accompanying update episode to the first season of KXAN's investigative podcast, Catalyst.

**Explore KXAN's original investigation digital project here:**

<http://missingintexas.com/>

**Listen to the accompanying podcast episode (Season 1 Update) here:**

<https://www.kxan.com/catalyst-season-1/>

**See our continuing coverage in these story updates:**

'John and Joseph's Law' gaining support in Texas House, Senate

<https://bit.ly/3IN4S5I>

Bill requiring missing persons reporting to national database called 'long overdue'

<https://bit.ly/3G8XvDz>

Families relieved to see missing persons, unidentified bodies reporting bill headed to governor

<https://bit.ly/3HfmZAU>

Missing persons, unidentified bodies reporting bill signed by Gov. Abbott

<https://bit.ly/3glq9AN>

**Explore the previous/related project that launched this coverage:**

<https://mayberrymissing.com/>