

Usually, state mandates come with a little frustration from the locals that have to enact those mandates. But La Crosse sheriff Steve Helgeson says, if the state decided to start collecting DNA during certain arrests, he wouldn't have a problem with it. He says swabbing the inside of a cheek for DNA isn't much different from taking fingerprints, which jailers do for every person booked into the jail. Helgeson says the DNA samples would have to be handled differently, but he thinks the jailers wouldn't have a problem dealing with that.

The benefit to collecting the samples, says Helgeson, is that those DNA collections would provide a quicker reference when investigating crimes. Governor Walker has proposed collecting DNA at arrest for certain crimes.