The Combined DNA Index System (CODIS)

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IST 110

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Case Link: https://www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/california-man-pleads-guilty-maryland-murder-solved-dna

This was the case of Dellando Recaedo Campbell, convicted of domestic violence, this contributed to their spouse's demise in relation to Serika Dunkley Holness's death. His link to the murder became known when DNA samples obtained by police in California in 2013 matched those found in the Maryland murder case. It was established that Campbell planned with Ryan Dave Holness, Serika's husband, to commit the murder and work together to stage a crime scene to look like it was done by carjackers.

1. Role of DNA Sampling:

DNA sampling played a crucial role in establishing the connection between Dellano Recardo Campbell and the murder case of Serika Dunkley Holness. DNA samples were essential to solving the murder case in that they provided the link between the samples collected in the murder scene and those in the DNA database [(1)]. DNA samples were taken at the crime scene in 2009, processed in the CODIS, and kept in the system for continual comparison with retrieved DNA profiles. The case was solved when police routinely collected Campbell's DNA samples with **the unidentified Male in the Holness case**. DNA sampling provided conclusive evidence that Campbell was involved in the murder case.

2. How and when was the DNA collected?

DNA samples were collected from Dellando Recardo Campbell by police in 2013 in Lemoore during a routine arrest that was not related to the murder case. With the system of the national DNA database being able to link one case to another, Campbell's DNA was matched to an unidentified Male in the murder case of Serika Dunkley. This vital matching proved Campbell's involvement in the murder of Serika, which led to his arrest and pleading guilty.

3. What should be done with DNA samples from persons not convicted of a crime?

Non-convicted persons' DNA samples ought to be managed with the help of a rigorous process to safeguard Privacy, prevent authorized access, and mitigate the risk of getting into the wrong hands [(3)]. Appropriate protocols should be established for acquiring, examining, using, and storing DNA samples to safeguard these individuals' Privacy [(2)]. Also, there should be an appropriate protocol stipulating the disposal of these DNA samples when they are no longer needed for investigative use. Those handling these systems should be aware of this and must follow to the latter the policies and regulations which have been put in place.

References

1. California man pleads guilty to **Maryland murder solved by DNA** [Internet]. 2015. Available **from: https://www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/california-man**-pleads-guilty-maryland-murder-solved-dna
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