WHAT ROLE DID DNA SAMPLING PLAY IN SOLVING THE CASE?

DNA played both a connecting and confirming role in solving this series of attacks. (FBI, 2015) While it initially helped establish that the same perpetrator committed both 2008 Norfolk attacks and the 2010 Kuwait assault through blood sample matches, DNA alone wasn't enough to identify the criminal. It wasn't until fingerprint analysis and investigator Grover's work identified Amin Garcia as a suspect that DNA provided the final piece of evidence, confirming his identity by matching samples from all three crime scenes.

HOW AND WHEN WAS THE DNA COLLECTED?

The DNA evidence was collected at three critical points during the investigation. First, investigators gathered samples from the September 2008 Norfolk attack scene. Then in spring 2010, blood samples were collected from both the Kuwait shower where the attack occurred and from a discarded shirt found in the trash. Finally, after Garcia was identified through fingerprints, investigators obtained a sample directly from him, which matched the evidence from all previous crime scenes.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH DNA SAMPLES FROM PERSONS WHO ARE NOT CONVICTED OF A CRIME?

On one hand, DNA contains highly personal genetic info, and the privacy of those not convicted of crimes should be protected. On the other hand, maintaining these samples in databases could help solve future crimes. By 2009, all states with laws allowing pre-conviction DNA sampling provide a way to expunge profiles in this situation. Nine states automatically expunge the DNA profile, while many other states require the person to request themselves. (Berson, 2009) I personally think DNA data should be expunged for privacy.

REFERENCES

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