DNA played a key role in solving the 1981 murder of Donna Walker. While early investigations couldn’t match fingerprints to any suspects, the case was solved when investigators used advanced technology, namely the Next Generation Identification System. This system helps identify suspects through biometric data, such as fingerprints. DNA databases in combination with the NGI system, such as CODIS, have helped solve many cold cases by linking DNA from different crime scenes, even when the crimes are in different places or years apart. In the case of Donna Walker, the key evidence was an old fingerprint found at the scene. Had DNA profiling been available at the time, it might have helped solve the case faster. In most cases, DNA should only be kept if it is connected to a crime investigation. Many areas have laws and compliance standards to make sure DNA samples from innocent people are removed from databases once they are cleared.

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