PROJECT HISTORY

In 2007 the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) received grant funding to establish an unknown suspect sexual assault DNA test project. The project allows a private lab to assist the Washington State Crime Lab in processing DNA evidence in a more timely fashion. The Washington State Congressional Delegation supported the request and secured funding through the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The funding supports the goals of increasing completed DNA tests to decrease the backlog, reduce turnaround time for DNA test results and increase prosecutions. The agreement between WASPC and Orchid Cellmark, the testing vendor, is to have a 30-day maximum return on test results; this means 30-days from the intake of evidence to the receipt of the final DNA test results to the originating agency.

Washington State and the FBI both have databases with DNA profiles that are available to the Washington State Crime Lab DNA Unit for comparison purposes and will potentially identify suspects in adult and child sexual assault cases. Across the nation the DNA database system has resulted in making identification hits in approximately 30% of the cases and of those hits, 30% have been multiple rape suspects or serial offenders.

WHY OUTSOURCE DNA ANALYSIS

Since the late 1980's law enforcement professionals have been utilizing DNA analysis to identify, arrest, prosecute and lock-up dangerous offenders. DNA analysis has become an essential tool to law enforcement due to the accuracy and scientific linkage it provides between victims and suspects. Also contributing to the success of DNA analysis is the possibility of identifying suspects using limited samples. DNA analysis includes the capability of identifying suspects by entering an unknown person's DNA into both the Washington State and National Databases for comparison to DNA samples already on file. Ideally this results in matches to offenders whose data is stored in the State and National Databases.

In order to keep Washington State's increasing DNA requests processed in a timely manner, DNA evidence needs to be outsourced to private laboratories.

Outsourcing allows Washington State to decrease the number of cases awaiting analysis, maintain ongoing DNA analysis, and provide the means to identify and prosecute sexual assault offenders.

CASE ELIGIBILITY:

- Sexual assault cases when the offender identity is unknown, i.e. full name and address
- Sexually motivated homicides
- Sexually motivated burglaries
- All child cases 12 years of age and under

WHAT TO DO:

If you have a case you think meets the criteria for this program, contact Dawn Larsen at WASPC for authorization to send the case to Orchid Cellmark for immediate processing.

Dawn Larsen

Director of Projects, 360.486.2419 dlarsen@waspc.org

PROTOCOL FOR CASE SUBMISSION AND ANALYSIS:

- Law enforcement is called to investigate a sexually motivated crime.
- 2. Health care professionals complete a rape-kit on the victim.
- If the assailant in unknown, law enforcement completes the prescreening documentation (www. waspc.org/Unknown Suspect Sexual Assault DNA Project) and returns to WASPC for review to determine if case meets the grant criteria.
- 4. If approved, WASPC assigns an authorization number to the case.
- The Case Officer submits the DNA evidence with the authorization number to Orchid Cellmark for testing and analysis.
- Orchid Cellmark completes DNA testing and analysis within 30-days and returns results to the case officer and the WSP Crime Lab to be entered in the State and Federal DNA databases.
- If a DNA match is made, information will be forwarded to the agency of origin for further investigation.
- 8. If possible, charges will be filed resulting in prosecution of the offender.
- 9. WASPC will submit payment to Orchid Cellmark.





SUBMIT CASES TO:

Orchid Cellmark 3988 Diplomat Drive, Suite 100 Farmers Branch, Texas 75234 ATTN: Lab/WASPC (Case Number)

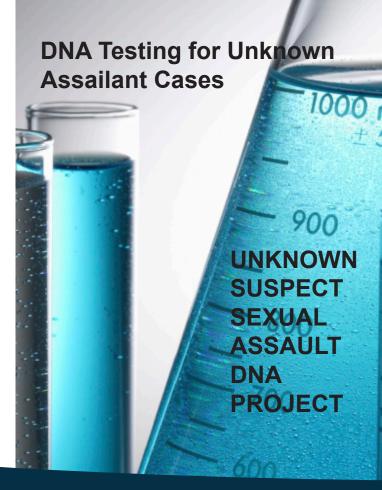
PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

- Ensure the proper collection and handling of **DNA** evidence
- Develop continual partnerships between law enforcement and medical professionals working with rape victims and victim advocates
- Reduce investigation time by increasing the number of rape cases processed quickly using DNA testing
- **Enhance quality assurance monitoring**
- Increase the number of DNA positive matches in State and National Databases
- Increase reporting of DNA matches to law enforcement officials
- Increase the prosecution of stranger / unknown suspect sexual assault cases

sociation of Sheriffs









Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs

This project is supported by Grant # 2006RGCX0008 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not represent the official position or policies of the United States Department of Justice.