

Department of Justice Update on Forensic Genetics

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The forensic use of genetic genealogy testing and familial research has helped solve more than fifty cold case crimes over the past year. The early success, rapid use, and widespread interest in genealogy as an investigative technique has led to much discussion in the law enforcement, forensic science, and legal communities, and has generated a significant amount of media coverage. Many issues surrounding forensic genealogy have been raised. They include: striking the proper balance of competing interests, the use of best practices and procedural safeguards, the roles and responsibilities of various participants in the process, and technical questions surrounding the genetic typing and database upload of relevant samples. This presentation will discuss these issues and provide an update on the Department's current efforts relevant to this topic.