

EVALUATION OF THE USE OF AUTOMATION IN THE EVALUATION OF PROPERTY CRIME SAMPLES

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The success of the use of forensic DNA analysis in cases with touch DNA evidence has led to an expectation of its use by investigators, attorneys, and juries. Because of the success of obtaining quality genotypes with increasingly lower amounts of DNA and an increase in the public expectations, an increasing number of cases are backlogged. In an attempt to increase throughput in these types of cases, the use of alternate protocols that maximize the speed and consistency of robotics can be quite beneficial. In this study, samples taken from 25 different common objects to determine the DNA concentration and quality utilizing a completely automated approach and a more traditional hands-on approach. Time of process, quantity and quality of DNA were monitored and compared.