

COMPLETE IDENTIFICATION IN THE MOST PUBLICIZED KIDNAPPING CASE IN COLOMBIA

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There are 6 new kidnapping cases every day in Colombia. Some of them involve small children that are sometimes sold for adoption, pornographic practices, to request ransom money and for satanic rituals.

Two years ago, a newborn baby was kidnapped from a maternity clinic in Santa Fe de Bogotá. This case became the most publicized case in the country. For two years, the authorities searched and recovered eleven children in that process; however, no one corresponded to the missing child. In December 1998, the authorities recovered a 2 year old child that could correspond to the kidnapped child. A woman was apprehended as the alleged kidnapper. A total of 17 STR and the D1S80 VNTR-PCR markers (STR-F13AO1, FES/FPS, vWA, CSF1PO, TPOX, TH01, D16S539, D7S820, D13S317, F13B, LPL (*GenePrint*® STR systems, Promega Corporation, Madison, WI), D12S1090, D3S1744, D18S849, FGA, D7S820, D9S304, D1S533 and D1S80 (Lifecodes Corporation, Stamford, CT) were typed. In addition, molecular HLA I (HLA-A, HLA-B) and class II (HLA-DRB, DQB1) (Lifecodes Corporation, Stamford, CT) and mtDNA analysis of the HV1 and HV2 regions was also performed.

The results obtained from the analysis of the 17 STR, D1S80, and HLA typing analysis demonstrated exclusion (5 STR and HLA typing) between the kidnapped child with the alleged kidnapper. Complete compatibility with the alleged mother was obtained with all STRs, D1S80, HLA and mtDNA analysis. The combined Maternity Index was 240.791 and the Probability of Maternity of 99.9996%.

These studies allowed the identification of the most publicized case of kidnapping in Colombia. The kidnapper later confessed all the details and motives for this crime. The use of DNA typing technology is an extremely valuable tool for the identification of missing and kidnapped children particularly since only a footprint is kept as a record at birth.

