

DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO PROCESS ALL FELONS AND ARRESTEE SAMPLES

Tammy Pruet Northrup

Louisiana State Police, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Louisiana's DNA Databasing Statute found at La. R.S. 15:601-15:620 was originally enacted August 15, 1999 but was not funded until July 1, 2001. As originally enacted, the statute mandated the collection of DNA samples from convicted offenders and arrestees of all felony sex offenses and certain other crimes that were considered violent in nature. Collections of DNA samples from convicted offenders began in October 2001 and collections from arrestees began in November 2002. On June 20, 2003, the statute was substantially amended to mandate the collection of DNA samples from all convicted offenders and arrestees for all felonies and certain enumerated misdemeanors. As Louisiana's Databasing program substantially increased in size, the need to develop innovative information and technology systems to track and process these samples became evident. Louisiana developed several innovative IT systems to combat some of the challenges presented by the state's aggressive DNA Databasing law. These systems include the Louisiana CODIS Accessioning and Tracking System, an integration with the State's existing AFIS system to assist in the collection of arrestee samples, a Virtual DNA Analysis System to assist in the Data Review process of these samples, as well as the development of an automated DNA Buccal swab cutter to enable the analysis of Louisiana's arrestee samples to be fully automated. Each of these four systems will be discussed during this presentation.