

DNA ANALYSIS OF PROPERTY CRIME SAMPLES

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The Orange County District Attorney's Office contracted the Serological Research Institute (SERI) to process property crime cases. Originally a pilot project, the tremendous success of the project resulted in the submission of over 400 cases. Low-level DNA, mixtures, and inhibited samples were routinely encountered in the types of evidence submitted. A large number of profiles were submitted for searching in the national databases, which resulted in numerous convicted offender, and "forensic hits." SERI's approach to processing challenging casework samples, including techniques used to overcome PCR inhibition will be discussed. A summary of the project, including the number of samples processed, profiles suitable for database searching, and database hits will also be given.