

USE OF GENETIC GENEALOGY DATABASES AS AN ADJUNCT TO CODIS

Colleen Fitzpatrick, PhD and Andrew S. Yeiser

Identifinders International, 18198 Aztec Ct., Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Genetic genealogy Y-profile databases offer the forensic community a largely untapped adjunct to CODIS. These databases offer features unavailable through CODIS, and are not subject to constraints on access to CODIS information. The participants in these public-access databases offer a separate pool of non-crime related DNA profiles associated with surnames. Privacy is not an issue because participation is voluntary. Discrimination is not an issue because crime is not the basis for the collection of the data. Finding an exact or near Y-DNA match in these databases can help associate a probable last name with a DNA sample. At present, these growing databases include over 93,000 surnames. Many database entries offer contact information for the DNA sample source, and information about the associated pedigree. All genetic genealogy testing companies include Y-filer markers in their test panels. This talk will discuss the use of genetic genealogy databases for DNA identification, and provide an example of how a match in a genetic genealogy Y-database led to the identification of a fugitive, solving an 80-year-old mystery.