



FAITH JOHNSON
CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY
DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS

****DISCLOSURE REGARDING NIST 1036 DATABASE CHANGE****

February 27, 2018

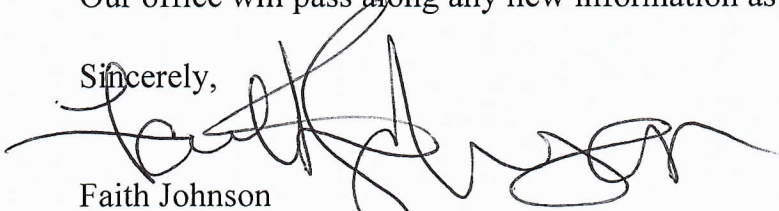
On September 22, 2017, the Dallas County District Attorney's Office received written notice from the Texas DPS Crime Laboratory System that there was a change in the National Institute of Standards and Technologies (NIST) 1036 database for calculating DNA match statistics. These corrections in the database resulted in minor changes in reported DNA statistical calculations. The Texas DPS Crime Laboratory system has used the NIST 1036 database since February 24, 2016. Texas DPS published notice of this database error on its website for public access on September 8, 2017, as well as a list of cases that were potentially affected by the changes with the database. The list provided by DPS, however, did not identify each individual case by cause number or name of the accused. This office took it upon itself to try to identify Dallas County cases where filed charges resulted in dispositions involving prison sentences, community supervision, or deferred adjudication community supervision. We have recently completed gathering all necessary identifying information and have provided a list of impacted Dallas County cases on our website (www.dallascounty.org/department/da/).

To help you and your expert understand this notice, attached is the notification letter issued by the Texas DPS Crime Laboratory dated September 8, 2017. As noted in the attached letter, the database corrections are minor and the underlying statistics will not change significantly. Additionally, there should be no impact on DNA profile interpretation and no impact on the inclusion or exclusion of victims or defendants in any reported result.

If requested, the District Attorney's Office will work with you to facilitate your request for a recalculation of the DNA statistics utilized as evidence in a Dallas County case tested between February 24, 2016 and September 8, 2017 that resulted in a disposition of prison, community supervision, or deferred adjudication. To request a DNA statistical recalculation in a case listed on our website, the convicted person or an attorney acting on behalf of the convicted person can submit a written request to our office directed to the attention of the Conviction Integrity Unit.

Our office will pass along any new information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,



Faith Johnson
Criminal District Attorney
Dallas County, Texas

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NIST 1036 Database Change Notification Letter

September 8, 2017

The Texas DPS Crime Laboratory system, as well as many other crime laboratories across the country, use the National Institute of Standards and Technologies (NIST) 1036 database for calculating match statistics in support of criminal investigations and other types of human identification applications. This NIST 1036 database has been used by the Texas DPS Crime Laboratory system since February 24, 2016.

On July 25, 2017, NIST gave a presentation titled "Lessons learned from the characterization of a large set of population samples: identifying and addressing discordance" at the Forensic Science Error Management International Forensics Symposium. The presentation and datasets are available on STRbase at <http://strbase.nist.gov/NISTpop.htm>. The presentation details changes made to the NIST 1036 database.

Additionally, the Texas Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory Service received a bulletin from the Federal Bureau of Investigation on July 27, 2017 regarding NIST revised population data.

After receiving the notifications, DNA profiles were evaluated using the statistical tools currently in use with both the previous and revised versions of the NIST database. The results indicated the impact of the NIST database changes to be negligible.

Two thousand seven hundred thirty-one cases (2,731) are estimated to have statistics reported that were calculated using the NIST 1036 database since February 24, 2016. A list of these cases is attached.

The NIST database is a dataset used in the calculation of statistics to assist the trier of fact in applying appropriate weight to an association. Because the database corrections are minor, the statistics will not change significantly; there should be no impact on DNA profile interpretation and no impact on the inclusion or exclusion of victims or defendants in any result.

If you have any further questions regarding this notification or the details of the evaluation conducted, please contact your local crime laboratory.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Brady W Mills'.

Brady W Mills
Assistant Division Director
Law Enforcement Support
Crime Laboratory Service