

DNA evidence in Philippine courts: a case report

De Ungria, M.C.A., Calacal, G.C., Magno, M.M.F., Delfin, F.C.,
Tabbada, K.A., Frani, A.M. and Halos, S.C.

DNA Analysis Laboratory, Natural Sciences Research Institute
University of the Philippines, Quezon City

Philippine Law Gazette. 2001, 13(3):46-49. The strength of DNA analysis lies in the objectivity of the science in comparison to the subjective nature that accompanies non-biological evidences provided by victims/eye witnesses, e.g. statements, identification of suspects from police line-ups. Moreover, once biological evidence is available, especially fresh samples that were properly handled, collected and stored in recent crimes, DNA analysis is relatively straight-forward thus facilitating the expeditious processing of evidence and necessarily accelerating the judicial process leading to the conviction of the guilty as well as the exoneration of the innocent. The present paper reports a case wherein a man who was positively identified by the victim as her assailant and father of her child, was excluded on the basis of DNA tests.

KEYWORDS

Criminal case, DNA evidence, short tandem repeat, exclusion, victim's testimony, judicial process