

Applications of forensic DNA analysis in criminal and civil cases

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The Philippine Law Gazette. 2001, 13(3):41-45. Forensic DNA analysis is the most powerful tool for human identification. It is used to aid in the identification of perpetrators of a crime, real fathers in paternity cases, mass disaster victims and human sources of tissue samples. Due to the uniqueness of an individual's make-up, a person's DNA profile serves as his 'DNA print' to identify him as an individual; and his activities through biological samples that he may leave in a place, i.e. crime scene, site of mass disaster.

This paper aims to present the utility of forensic DNA analysis in criminal and civil cases, with particular focus on the use of Short Tandem Repeat methods for sexual assault cases and the identification of real fathers (paternity testing) in the Philippines.

KEYWORDS

forensics, DNA profile, human identification, criminal investigation, mass disaster, paternity,