

Pennsylvania v. James Yeckel Jr.

Shotgun shell links killer to parents' death

“The county police, Dr. Perlin, and the DA's office working together were able to bring some closure to this family”
Mark Tranquilli, Allegheny County District Attorney



“Ultimately, this case was cracked by the close cooperation of good, hard police work, developments in science and application of the law,” said Mark Tranquilli, the assistant district attorney.

References

[Pittsburgh Tribune-Review Article](#)
[Cybergenetics Article](#)

Crime The bodies of James Yeckel and Carol Yeckel, both 74 years old, were found on September 8, 2011.

Evidence A spent casing was discovered from a 12-gauge shotgun believed to be the murder weapon.

DNA The county crime lab was able to develop DNA profiles believed to be from both parents and their son, James Yeckel Jr.

Match The methods being used by the lab made it difficult to separate the DNA of James Yeckel Jr. from his parents'.

TrueAllele TrueAllele was able to develop a match statistic that the DNA from the shell was 1 billion times more probable to belong to James Yeckel Jr. than coincidence.

Cybergenetics Dr. Mark Perlin testified about the DNA results on April 13, 2012.

Outcome James Yeckel Jr. plead guilty to two counts of third-degree murder for the killing of his parents, and was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

Ask for a free TrueAllele screening of DNA data from your crime case.