

# Plea agreements

When DNA mixtures are fully interpreted, justice can be served

“

My defendant is pleading guilty because of the work you guys did! My victim's family is very much appreciative that this case is coming to a resolve by way of plea instead of an emotional trial.”

- Det. Justin Reibly, Easton Police Dept.

On February 9, 2021, 91-year-old Richard Brunkhorst was found murdered in his **Maryland** home with injuries to his face and head. He also had apparent defensive wounds on his hands and arms. A suspect, Charles John Smullen, was found with the victim's stolen car and traces of dried blood on his clothing.

Several swabs containing mixed DNA were taken from the victim's body. TrueAllele Casework found inclusionary match statistics (ranging from around a hundred to the millions) between the victim's body swabs and Charles Smullen.

On May 16, 2022, Smullen entered an Alford plea (a guilty plea where the defendant maintains their innocence) to first-degree murder charges for the death of Richard Brunkhorst. He is currently serving the maximum sentence of life in prison without parole.

Detective Justin Reibly wrote Cybergenetics, “thank you to everyone that worked on this case in your office!! I have sung your lab's praises to many law enforcement agencies in Maryland in the hopes that it will generate more work in Maryland for your lab.”

Drugs and a firearm were found in a **Montgomery County, PA** home associated with heroin deals. A local lab developed DNA data from the drug packets and gun, but was unable to make comparisons with the suspects.

On the same data, TrueAllele computing connected the items with Rasheed Farrelle, with some match statistics in the trillions. Farrelle entered a guilty plea. “The defendant would not have pled guilty but for the work you were able to do,” Assistant District Attorney Laura Bradbury told Cybergenetics.

In **Pittsburgh, PA**, Andre Roberts was shot and killed in a vehicle. DNA mixtures were retrieved from car door handles. The Allegheny County crime laboratory found the mixture data too complex to interpret, and referred the case for independent computer analysis.

TrueAllele computing resolved the door handle mixtures, statistically placing both victim and defendant DNA in the car. Jamal Daniel pleaded guilty to third-degree murder, and was sentenced to 10 to 20 years in prison. Jameel Porter pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter, and will serve 7½ to 15 years in prison.

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

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