


**What FGG is Revealing about CODIS
and the Criminal Justice System**
(from an FGG point of view)

Colleen Fitzpatrick, PhD
President, Identifinders International LLC
Director of FGG, Intermountain Forensics


ISHI
September 14, 2021

1

Epiphany No. 1
1992-1993 Phoenix Canal Murders



Angela Brosso and Melanie Bernas




Bryan Patrick Miller

Identifinders International LLC - info@identifinders.com - (714) 576-6377

2

Not all offenders are in CODIS



Bryan Patrick Miller


Charged with stabbing a woman in Everett, WA
- Acquitted, claiming self defense

Charged with stabbing a woman in a Phoenix mall
- No DNA collected because he was under 18

Identifinders International LLC - info@identifinders.com - (714) 576-6377

3


Epiphany No. 2
1991 Sarah Yarborough Homicide



Identifinders International LLC - info@identifinders.com - (714) 576-6377

4

There are legal reasons why certain offenders are not in CODIS



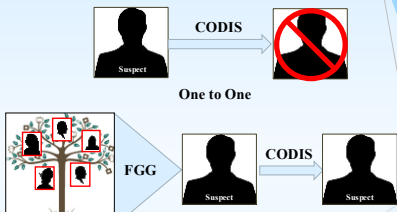
Patrick Leon Nicholas

- Served time in prison for attempted rape < 1983
- Before CODIS was adopted in WA State
- Arrested in 1993 for child molestation
- Pled down to gross misdemeanor assault
- WA is not an arrestee state
- Brother Edward in CODIS for 1st degree rape
- WA state does not practice familial searching

Identifinders International LLC - info@identifinders.com - (714) 576-6377

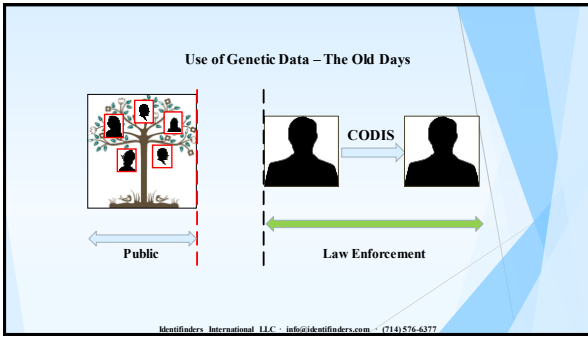
5

CODIS Requires Investigative Leads



Identifinders International LLC - info@identifinders.com - (714) 576-6377

6



7

Use of Genetic DATA – The Old Days

	Genetic Genealogy	CODIS
Where does it come from	Commercial DTC labs	Crime Labs
Whose data is it	Regular People	Convicted offenders
Where is it stored	Public databases	CODIS
How is it used	Family research	Legal identification

Identifinders International LLC - info@identifinders.com - (714) 576-6377

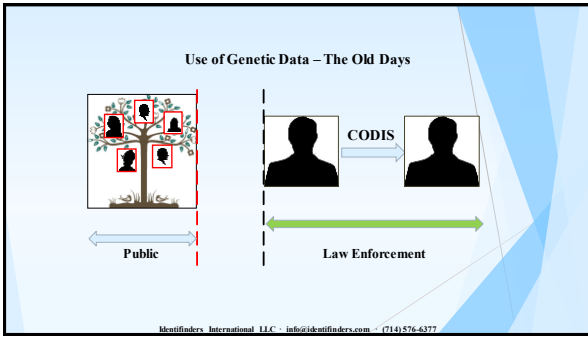
8

Use of Genetic DATA – The Present

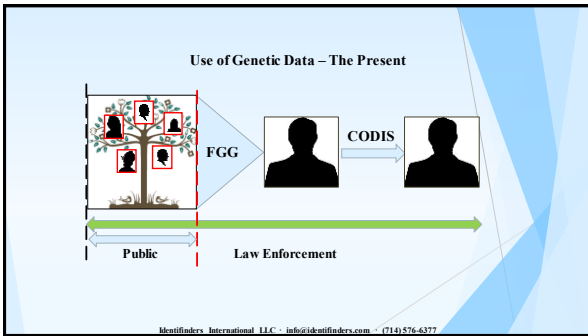
	Genetic Genealogy	FGG	CODIS
Where does it come from	Commercial DTC labs	Private labs	Crime labs
Whose data is it	Regular people	Both	Convicted offenders
Where is it stored	Public databases	Public/Priv Databases	CODIS
How is it used	Family research	Investigative leads	Legal identification

Identifinders International LLC - info@identifinders.com - (714) 576-6377

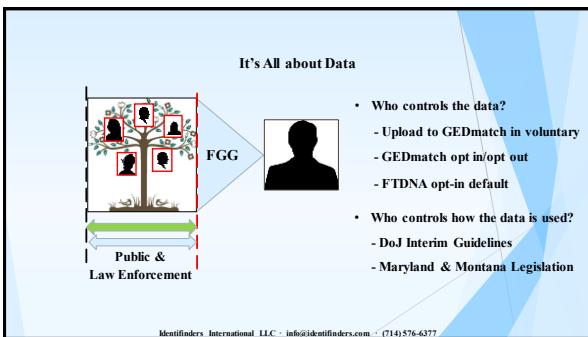
9



10



11



12

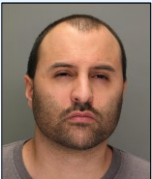
Informal Survey

- Based on 53 cases solved with FGG
 - Data obtained for 45 cases
 - Records unavailable
 - Suspects died too long ago
 - Common names, cannot be ID'd
- Categories
 - No known criminal history
 - Crimes pre-date CODIS < 1995
 - 1994 - DNA Identification Act
 - Non-felony offenses, cases dismissed, etc
 - Keeping it simple. Collection laws vary across states and have expanded over time.
 - Known to have slipped through the cracks
 - Felonies
- Based on
 - Criminal records
 - Media reports and public records


Identifinders International LLC - info@identifinders.com - (714) 576-6377

13

Case Study No. 1 - Suspect had no prior known offenses



Michael Anthony Soares, Jr.




Jack Fay

Murder of Jack Fay
Warwick, RI
2013


Identifinders International LLC - info@identifinders.com - (714) 576-6377

14

Case Study No. 2 - Offenses committed before CODIS



James Curry




Mary Silvani

The Murder of Mary Silvani
aka Sheeps Flat Jane Doe
Lake Tahoe, NV
1982

Identifinders International LLC - info@identifinders.com - (714) 576-6377

15

Case Study No. 3 – Misdemeanors only, DNA collection not required




**The Murder of Gwen Miller
Rapid City SD
1968**

Eugene Carroll Field Gwen Miller

Identifinders International, LLC - info@identifinders.com - (714) 576-6377

16

How Effective is FGG in Generating Investigative Leads?



Many to One to One

Identifinders International, LLC - info@identifinders.com - (714) 576-6377

17

Survey Results

TBD

Identifinders International, LLC - info@identifinders.com - (714) 576-6377

18

How Does FGG Support CODIS?

- Identifies offenders with no criminal past
- Identifies offenders who were pre-CODIS
- Identifies human remains where family members are not in CODIS Missing Persons database
- Identifies witnesses from crime scene evidence that is not eligible for CODIS upload
- Can generate SNP profiles with degraded samples
- Can rule out candidates via target testing
- Provide exclusions through ethno-ancestry, phenotype, etc

Identifinders International LLC - info@identifinders.com - (714)576-6377

19

In the meantime CODIS is improving via

Identifinders International LLC - info@identifinders.com - (714)576-6377

20

The DTC Phenomenon – Why the Resistance?

DTC

- 40M people
- Discover med tendencies
- Genealogy
- Adoptions searches

CODIS

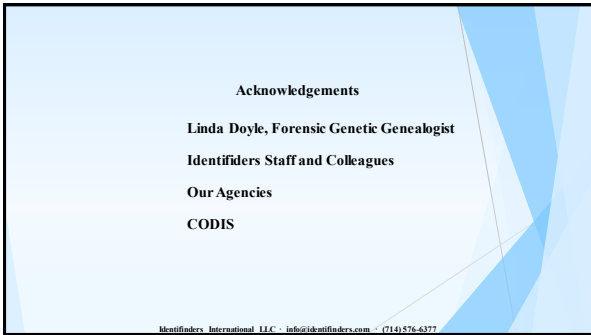
- 20M people
- No medical info
- Solve crimes

Identifinders International LLC - info@identifinders.com - (714)576-6377

21



22



23



24
