

USING INVESTIGATIVE GENETIC GENEALOGY IN INFANTICIDE CASES

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Investigative genetic genealogy is becoming a popular topic in the forensic community for its use in solving previously “unsolvable” cold cases for law enforcement. The United States, unfortunately, has very high rates of infanticides--or the murder of a child younger than four years of age. Because these children are so young and have likely not attended school, no one could know that they exist and they often are not reported missing, because of the high likelihood of their parents being the perpetrators. When one of these children’s remains are found, they often go unidentified and their murderers are free to live their lives. With the use of investigative genetic genealogy, these children’s parents can be identified and investigators can find out what happened even decades after the child’s remains were discovered.