

# Indiana v Dugniqio Dishay Forest

DNA technology helps secure narcotics conviction

“ Thanks to solid police work on the part of our jail staff, the investigative skill of our narcotics detectives and the eagerness of the Vanderburgh County Prosecutor’s Office to both embrace and defend new technology, we were able to secure a conviction.”

Sheriff Dave Wedding  
Vanderburg County, IN



“Due to complicated circumstances surrounding the State’s burden of proof in this matter, the Vanderburgh County Prosecutor’s Office enlisted the expertise of [Cybergenetics] Dr. Mark Perlin to conduct DNA analysis of the baggie that contained the crack cocaine” said Lead Detective James Budde.

Sheriff Wedding explained, “Dr. Perlin developed a software program known as TrueAllele, which can identify and separate the DNA of multiple individuals that may have cross-contaminated a particular item.... Dr. Perlin’s technology and expertise with respect to DNA analysis came at the recommendation of the Indiana State Police lab.”

**Crime** In January 2015, prison officers received a tip about crack cocaine inside a cell. Officers found the cocaine bag inside a cracker box.

**Evidence** The cracker box packaging and cocaine bag were recovered as evidence.

**DNA** Indiana State Police Laboratory developed DNA data from the items, indicating a mixture of up to five contributors.

**Match** The laboratory analysis could not produce a match statistic on the complex mixture data.

**TrueAllele** On the same data, the computer linked Forest to the evidence with match statistics of 24.9 trillion (bag) and 708 quintillion (packaging). Forest’s cellmate was excluded.

**Cybergenetics** Dr. Mark Perlin testified at a Daubert hearing on June 3, 2016. After Judge Richard D’Amour admitted TrueAllele evidence, Dr. Perlin explained the mixture results to the jury.

**Outcome** On June 3, 2016 the jury found Mr. Forest guilty of cocaine possession. He faces a sentence of 2 to 12 years.

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