

[DATE]

[Defendant]

[Address]

Re: *Virginia Department of Forensic Science Case Review*
[Case Name]

Dear [NAME]:

The Virginia Department of Forensic Science (DFS) has been conducting a review of cases from the 1970s and 1980s. Your case, *Commonwealth v. [Defendant's name]*, has been included in this Review. The forensic case work of a former DFS employee involved in your case, Mary Jane Burton, has been questioned, and DFS is notifying every defendant that is affected.

We do not know what role the forensic analysis provided by this former employee played in the overall outcome in your case. Neither DFS nor the Forensic Science Board can provide you with any legal advice. You may wish to talk to a lawyer of your choice about this notice and discuss your options.

The Innocence Project at UVA School of Law (UVAIP), working in conjunction with a coalition of volunteer attorneys, can provide free and confidential legal assistance regarding your options. They may be reached at:

Jennifer Givens
Juliet Hatchett
Innocence Project at UVA School of Law
580 Massie Road
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903
434-924-3732

If you decide to contact UVAIP, they will be able to discuss your case with you and relief that may be available.

If it is determined that evidence from the case is still available and that DNA testing may be agreed to or ordered by the Court, DFS is willing to discuss testing options available and resubmission of the evidence.

Please note that the prosecutor and the law enforcement agency have been notified of this development in your case as well by separate letter.

Sincerely,

DFS??

The Board Chair??

DRAFT