

[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 one serologist 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 serologist 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 whether you may have the ability to reopen your case and have DNA testing done.

The [volunteer?] can offer you free and confidential legal advice about the meaning of this notification and can be reached at:

[Contact Information]

If you decide to contact the [volunteer], they will be able to discuss with you any DNA testing and/or 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,

Volunteer lawyer??

DFS??

The Board Chair??

DRAFT