

DNA Evidence

Criminal Justice

What DNA analysis is strong at, and what it cannot answer.

What DNA can support

- Strong discrimination between individuals
- Comparison against a named reference sample
- Database searching for investigative leads
- Profiling from very small samples
- Statistical weight that can be quantified

What DNA cannot show

- When the material was deposited
- Whether transfer was direct or indirect
- What activity put it on the item
- Clear answers from complex mixtures
- Separation of identical twins

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

DNA answers source questions far better than activity questions; secondary transfer is documented and real.

Educational reference. Sensitivity has grown faster than interpretation guidance; mixtures and contamination remain live issues.