



## NSP Crime Laboratory Special Report: DNA Reporting Changes

Effective March 1, 2017, the Nebraska State Patrol Crime Lab will no longer include the Appendix containing the DNA profiles (allele table) with DNA reports. There are several reasons driving this decision.

The lab recently implemented new DNA mixture procedures that are centered on software that allows the scientists to use more of the data in their interpretations. These interpretations do not easily transfer to the traditional allele table, which can lead to confusion and misinterpretation of the results. The lab will prepare a different type of allele table on an “as needed” basis as we understand the usefulness of the allele table as a demonstrative exhibit in court. The table prepared for court will be more involved and will most likely require explanation by the scientist.

Another factor that was considered in this decision is the impact on case turnaround times. A significant amount of time is spent in preparing the allele tables. Even more time would be required in order to accurately display the data moving forward. After the scientist prepares the allele table, a second scientist must spend valuable time performing technical and administrative reviews of the table in order to ensure accuracy.

Removing the allele table from the lab report is also in keeping with national practices. For reasons such as those listed above, very few labs include an allele table as part of a DNA report. If you need an allele table for court, please give the lab at least two weeks’ notice. This will allow the scientist to prepare a chart for you and to have it technically and administratively reviewed for accuracy.

**We understand this will be a change for you. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Biology Unit Manager, Jason Linder at ([Jason.Linder@nebraska.gov](mailto:Jason.Linder@nebraska.gov)) or call 402-471-8950 and we will do our best to assist you.**

