



State of New Mexico

Department of Public Safety

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DPS Forensic Lab to Assist OMI in Bio Care Case

Santa Fe—The DNA section of the Northern Forensic Laboratory at the Department of Public Safety is analyzing samples to help identify the human remains discovered during an investigation of Bio Care, the Albuquerque company that prepared organs and other body parts for medical research.

The Office of the Medical Investigator was faced with a 3 month to 2 year turnaround time and an estimated cost of at least \$20,000 if forced to send the samples out of state. DPS is able to analyze the samples quicker and cheaper. Extraction and comparison of the DNA is under way and the results will be returned to OMI within a week to 10 days.

“We are glad to be able to help the families of these people bring closure to this troubling case. Thanks to dramatic improvements we have made to the DNA section in the last few years, we are able to do this work much quicker and much cheaper than if we had to send the samples out of state.” said John Denko, DPS Cabinet Secretary. “We are an internationally accredited lab that has the capacity to provide multiple DNA testing methods because of our state-of-the-art instrumentation. This helps make our turnaround rate surpass the national average for DNA cases.”

Forensic scientists with the Department of Public Safety are using DNA comparison from 100 samples from different body parts. This comparison so far has yielded information linking samples to 25 different males, 19 females, and one partial DNA profile without gender information from those samples.

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