



State of New Mexico

Department of Public Safety

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DPS Forensic Lab to Take Control of State DNA Database

Santa Fe—The Department of Public Safety Forensic Laboratory will be assuming control of the State DNA Administrative Center starting in October. The move will save weeks when inputting felon DNA information into the statewide database and will also see an annual cost savings of approximately \$400,000.

DPS has determined that the services currently performed by the State DNA Administrative Center in Albuquerque can be achieved less expensively and more quickly. The APD crime lab has had the responsibility to process the DNA and enter the information into the New Mexico DNA Identification System. This database is comprised of convicted offenders and felon arrestees. DNA is collected from those arrested as they are booked into jail and from probation and parole offices.

Currently it takes 6-8 weeks for this DNA information to be entered into the database for law enforcement use. DPS estimates it will take about 2 weeks once the Northern Forensic Laboratory assumes responsibility. Samples are being sent out of state to be processed, which accounts for the longer time and additional cost. DPS will complete the DNA analysis in the laboratory in Santa Fe. This additional work will not impact other DNA case work at the lab in Santa Fe.

DPS has notified Albuquerque Mayor Richard Barry of DPS's intent to assume the responsibilities effective October 6th, 2010. DPS is working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation to complete this transfer.

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