

Several issues relating to DNA-Information in the criminal justice system

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Abstract

DNA-Information helps criminal investigators to solve a concrete criminal case or to establish a match between the suspect of a specific criminal case and other unsolved crimes. Despite the advantages of genetic fingerprinting and DNA-Information, the procedures for analysing biological materials as well as obtaining and retaining DNA-Information are in conflict with the protection of an individual's informational privacy. There is a need for appropriate legislative criteria which balance the protection of an individual's informational privacy relating to DNA with the effectiveness of the criminal justice system. The seminar will outline the development of genetic fingerprinting and the use of DNA-Information in criminal proceedings. Furthermore, the speaker will refer to the various concerns related to the protection of DNA-Information and an individual's informational privacy.