

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Janet T. Mills
Governor

STATE OF MAINE
Maine State Police Crime Laboratory
26 Hospital Street
133 State House Station
Augusta, Maine
04333-0133

A Nationally Accredited Laboratory



Lt. Scott Gosselin
Director

January 15, 2020

Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
c/o Legislative Information
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Ref: Report Required by 15 MRSA §2138, sub-15

Dear Senator Deschambeault, Representative Warren and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I am writing to report to your committee as required by 15 MRSA §2138, sub-15. That subsection mandates that the Department of Public Safety prepare an annual report on post-conviction DNA analysis. We are to include the number of analyses completed under this statute, associated costs, and the results.

The Maine State Police Crime Laboratory was involved with four cases for post-conviction DNA analysis in 2019. There were no costs other than analyst/ support staff time as most of the forensic work related to these cases involved the hiring of independent private labs.

1. Our Crime Laboratory re-tested 3 old DNA extracts from the suspected murder weapon. After the re-testing, our lab authored a post-conviction MOU between the state and the defense for Daniel Roberts. Defense counsel hired outside experts, Sorensen lab, who did independent forensic testing for Daniel Roberts. After testing from this private lab, the defense filed their DNA motion. The Office of the Attorney General has filed a motion to dismiss as untimely. This matter is still pending in the court.
2. Our Crime Laboratory authored a post-conviction MOU between the state and the defense for Jason Twardus. Defense counsel hired outside experts, DDC Forensics, who are currently completing forensic testing for Jason Twardus. It is our understanding that the defense is still waiting for results from their testing at this private lab.
3. Our Crime Laboratory authored a post-conviction MOU between the state and the defense for Jeffrey Williams. Defense counsel hired outside experts, Independent Forensics, who are currently completing forensic testing for Jeffrey Williams. It is our understanding that the defense is still waiting for results from their testing at this private lab.
4. Our Crime Laboratory was consulted regarding a motion to show cause by defendant Michael Commeau and his attorney. Defense counsel had retained outside experts, Sorensen Forensics in anticipation of completing forensic testing for Michael Commeau. The defendant's motion for DNA testing was denied by the court on January 8, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Lt. Scott A. Gosselin,
Director, Maine State Police Crime Laboratory

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