



# DenverDA

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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **VIRGINIA TO USE DENVER'S FAMILIAL DNA SOFTWARE**

The Virginia Department of Forensic Sciences has accepted an offer from Denver DA Mitch Morrissey to use familial DNA search software that was created in Denver in 2008. Virginia has two high-profile unsolved cases that could potentially benefit from running a familial DNA search. There is an unsolved murder of a student at Virginia Tech and there is an ongoing investigation to identify the so-called East Coast rapist, who is believed to have committed serial rapes along the east coast for many years including attacking two Virginia teenagers in 2009.

The familial DNA searching software was developed jointly by the Denver District Attorney's Office, the Denver Police Department, and the Denver Police Department's Crime Laboratory. Virginia is currently testing the software and conducting performance checks before performing familial searches. The software has also been offered to authorities in Texas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Philadelphia where there are unsolved serial murders and sexual assaults.

District Attorney Morrissey is an international expert in the use of DNA in the criminal justice system and a proponent of using familial DNA searches as part of the investigative process. He has worked closely with the Denver Police Department's Crime Laboratory and internationally-known expert Gregory LaBerge.

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