

Before you go to trial, **VINGRAM Enterprises LTD.** Can help you answer these critical questions:

Is That Really Your Case?

The laboratory report identifies your client's case by the appropriate file and laboratory numbers. You have checked all the police documents that establish a valid chain of custody. Were you able to check the chain of custody of the case moving through the laboratory? In our experience, the most vulnerable point in the handling of the case is its manipulation by the chemist. Numbers production in the analysis of cases is a principle tool used in the evaluation of the chemist's work. Unfortunately, in many instances simultaneous case analyses (grouping of cases together for testing at the same time) occur due to time constraints. Case mix-ups, switching, and commingling of case samples are among some of the chain of custody breaks that the chemist makes. We have developed special procedures for addressing such shortcomings in controlled drug analyses. As a first step in checking for such mishaps, compare the description and weight of the case sample indicated on the laboratory report and the chemist's worksheet.

Do Drug and DNA Analysis Compare?

DNA analyses receive a lot of attention in the media, especially when previous convictions are overturned. Contrastingly, Controlled Drug analyses receive very little attention with the exception of our special approach.

What are the possible reasons for this situation?

- ✓ First, the government has complete autonomy in the confiscation, handling, and the analyses of controlled drugs;
- ✓ Second, the perception of the legal community that the uses of testing instruments by analysts is infallible;
- ✓ Finally, the lack of communication venues between chemists or analysts and the legal profession.

Possible solutions to this situation ...

- ✓ To apprise the legal profession that the analysis and presentation procedures for controlled drugs are not as complex as those for the more accepted DNA processes;
- ✓ Using an approach such as ours that does not generally require the reanalysis of controlled drugs (thus not affecting government chain of custody and testing issues).

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