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POLICE CAN REQUEST YOUR DNA FROM 23ANDME, ANCESTRY

Published: November 19, 2017

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SOURCE: ACTION NEWS JAX (HTTP://WWW.ACTIONNEWSJAX.COM/NEWS/LOCAL/POLICE-CAN-REQUEST-YOUR-DNA-FROM-23ANDME-ANCESTRY/630565206)

Millions of people have handed their DNA over to genetic testing companies like Ancestry or 23andMe to learn more about their family trees.

But when you ship off your saliva, law enforcement could have access to your DNA.

Police could use genetic information it gets from those companies to identify you in a criminal investigation, even if you've never used one of those services.

Jacksonville resident Eric Yarham wanted to learn more about his family tree, so he mailed off his saliva to 23andMe.

"Just trying to unravel the mystery that is your genetics," said Yarham, who lives in the Riverside area.

"That lingering 0.3 percent is sub-Saharan African. So that's swimming around in my DNA." Yarham had no idea police could request his genetic information.

Both 23andMe and Ancestry confirm your genetic information could be disclosed to law enforcement if they have a warrant.

Action News Jax asked 23andMe Privacy Officer Kate Black whether the company notifies customers about that possibility before they mail in their DNA. "We try to make information available on the website in various forms, so through Frequently Asked Questions, through information in our privacy center," Black said.

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According to the company's self-reported data, law enforcement has requested information for five American 23andMe customers.

So far, the company reports it has not turned over any information.

But Black said she wouldn't entirely rule it out in the future. "We would always review a request and take it on a case-by-case basis," Black said.

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Blank Reg • 2 days ago

Perhaps this will spur the creation of a new competitor who will do the tests anonymously and not keep records...kinda like VPN services.

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ubon thai massage → Blank Reg • 2 days ago

That defeats the whole purpose of the test. It is in these cases being used for genealogy to track family members, and with 23 and Me, to track medical disorders.
RR.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

White Phosphorus • 2 days ago

"Police could use genetic information it gets from those companies to identify you in a criminal investigation, even if you've never used one of those services."

If you've never used 1 of those services, how are police going to acquire your genetic information from them?

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

tsyganka → White Phosphorus • 2 days ago

As stated in the full article, cops would look for familial matches. Your father, sister, nephew, or whatever sent in a sample. Your genetic information will have certain matches to theirs.

Interestingly and alarmingly, cops have a history of planting drugs or guns on people they want to arrest. Will they now plant the 'irrefutable evidence' of DNA?

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

White Phosphorus → tsyganka • 2 days ago

If I was a cop and thought you were a communist or member of any religion of Abraham, I might leave a little somethin' special to lock-up another lunatic.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

tsyganka → White Phosphorus • 2 days ago

That seems to be no problem to many cops, and that's also why many folks don't trust cops.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

White Phosphorus → tsyganka • 2 days ago

If they're locking-up the lunatics and the geniuses that think they're always a victim because they can't handle responsibility for their own actions. So be it.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

wildehyedliberal • 2 days ago

Perhaps one will be able to CRISPR a new genetic identity... And use libraries of gene shifts.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Ngallendou Dièye → wildehyedliberal • 2 days ago

Right. Myself, I have self-identified a change of race and gender, so my DNA no longer applies to me.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

White Phosphorus • 2 days ago

"But it doesn't even have to be your DNA; if a family member who shipped off their saliva to one of these companies, law enforcement can request their genetic information for "familial matching."

"They can see what the likelihood is of these certain alleles, of these genetic markers, matching up to make it -- likelihood of whether you were involved in, let's say, that criminal activity or not," said Jacksonville Dr. Saman Soleymani, who has studied genetics extensively and been an

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expert witness in local criminal cases.

Soleymani said he didn't take any chances when he sent his DNA to 23andMe. "I literally sent my kit saying my name is Billy Bob," he added.

If you or a family member has sent in your genetic material to Ancestry or 23andMe, both companies allow you to delete your DNA results."

If you're a suspect and DNA was left at a crime scene that is a close match to a family member's DNA but your whereabouts are unknown, you'll find yourself becoming a prime suspect and giving a DNA sample to verify when you're found. If you were not a suspect and a family member's DNA is a close match, then you'll become a suspect and find yourself giving a DNA sample. Just don't willfully give DNA samples because of your curiosity, but if you do..have the results deleted after you've printed out the results of your search.

^ | v · [Reply](#) · [Share](#) ›

ubon thai message · 2 days ago

Josef Göbbels comment seems somehow appropriate, "If you have nothing to hide, you have nothing to fear." RR.

(But Clearly, in this case, that does not hold true.)

^ | v · [Reply](#) · [Share](#) ›

nedmorlef → [ubon thai message](#) · 2 days ago

it never holds true. why anyone in america would ever believe they are even remotely considered innocent is beyond me. the police just say you did it ,you're ruined whether true or not.

4 ^ | v · [Reply](#) · [Share](#) ›

punkyboy → [nedmorlef](#) · 2 days ago

And with "asset forfeiture" they can take all your stuff, too.

^ | v · [Reply](#) · [Share](#) ›

ubon thai message → [nedmorlef](#) · a day ago

Your Comment was the true meaning in my comment. I only worded it in a way to make people think about it. Have a good day, RR.

^ | v · [Reply](#) · [Share](#) ›

StaggerLee360 → [ubon thai message](#) · 2 days ago

When is a Josef Göbbels' comment ever appropriate? What's wrong with you? What's it like to have no moral compass?

^ | v · [Reply](#) · [Share](#) ›

ubon thai message → [StaggerLee360](#) · a day ago

Mein Kompass? Ich habe Delirium Heute. (Und auch Gestern.) RR.

(Und wie geht Es mit Ihre Saudi Cousins?)

^ | v · [Reply](#) · [Share](#) ›

Occams · 2 days ago

When I saw the ads for the very first time, I couldn't WAIT to do this.

Not.

I said; "Now THIS is soooo ripe for abuse. And most likely a government-conceived/run data mining op'."

3 ^ | v · [Reply](#) · [Share](#) ›

tsyganka → Occams • 2 days ago

BARDA has long lusted for DNA-specific biological weapons.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

punkyboy → tsyganka • 2 days ago

Interesting. Wouldn't surprise me.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Dr. Ew (JR) [👍👍👍] → Occams • 2 days ago

It boggles the mind of logical people why others would even consider these types of products would even be worthy of their consideration. I personally think it's all about stroking their ego because otherwise their self esteem is abysmal without garnering some boost from vanity driven products such as these.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Occams → Dr. Ew (JR) [👍👍👍] • 2 days ago

"No one ever went broke underestimating the intelligence of the American public" ~ H.L.Mencken

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Dr. Ew (JR) [👍👍👍] → Occams • 2 days ago

Lol

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Petunia • 2 days ago

I read about a case where they used the dna registry and found someone who seemed to be a close relative of the person they were looking for, and they were right. They found the relative and then the person who committed the crime.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

tsyganka → Petunia • 2 days ago

That's nice. - Now why don't the authorities jump to it when DNA could prove someone innocent of a crime? (Another reason to ban the so-called death penalty - DNA has proved people innocent after they were confined on death row for decades.)

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

kane • 2 days ago


People are without any doubt completely stupid thanks yo curriculum councils and government conspiracies to entrap into a lifetime of labour their dumb as sheep ,flocks of followers

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

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