

MATER SEMPER CERTA EST - A CASE OF INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFICATION OF HUMAN REMAINS BASED ON DNA ASSAY

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The identification of human remains consists in comparison between the DNA-profiles of the members of the missing person's family (especially the parents) and DNA-profiles obtained from the remains. We describe a case of positive identification of an alleged son who was shot and buried in a pit for circa one year. For the investigation we used the femur bone. For comparison, blood samples from the putative mother and father were delivered. DNA was typed using AmpF/STR[®] SGM Plus[®] (PE Biosystems Applied). The profile of the DNA we obtained confirmed the motherhood of the putative mother, but the one of the putative father was inconsistent with that of the son. This case proves that in motherless cases, exclusions based on the father's DNA-profiles are questionable. Apart from this, similar situations always raise ethical problems.