



**Prosecuting Attorney**  
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**NEWS**  
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**Hearings Set in Prade Case**

*Judge to determine if DNA evidence would affect trial outcome*

**AKRON, OHIO – August 2, 2012** – Summit County Prosecuting Attorney Sherri Bevan Walsh today announced that a hearing has been set for August 21 in the case of *State v. Prade*.

A jury convicted Douglas Prade in 1998 of murdering his ex-wife, Dr. Margo Prade. The Ohio Innocence Project, on behalf of Mr. Prade, filed a petition for either post-conviction relief or a new trial. The Innocence Project claims that new DNA testing results of Dr. Prade's lab coat, which she wore on a daily basis and was wearing at the time of her murder, exonerates Mr. Prade.

"No one in my office wants to see an innocent person behind bars," said Prosecutor Walsh. "We requested extensive DNA testing well beyond what the Innocence Project requested, and we have carefully reviewed all of the available evidence. There is no new evidence that proves Mr. Prade's claim of innocence. The jury's verdict should not be overturned."

In briefs filed with the Court, the State pointed out several flaws in Mr. Prade's theory. This new DNA evidence does not identify any new suspect, nor do we know when this DNA was deposited on the lab coat. According to Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation experts, the DNA is most likely a result of incidental transfer.

At the next hearing, Judge Hunter's determination will result in one of three potential actions:

- Prade is innocent and therefore his case should be dismissed,
- There is new evidence to warrant a new trial, or
- There is no new evidence and the conviction should stand.