

[Forensic Science Technician](#)

Search 170+ Forensic Science Colleges

Latest Articles

- [Home](#)
- [About](#)
- [Blog](#)

- [Top 25 Forensic Science Journals and Publications](#)
- [25 Wrongly-Convicted Felons Exonerated By New Forensic Evidence](#)
- [Forensics Hall of Fame: 10 Forensic Scientists Who Made History](#)
- [Top 40 Forensic Forums](#)

Find a Forensic Science Degree

1 ▼

2 ▼

3 ▼

4

Library

- [Salary for Forensic Science Technicians](#)

About Forensic Science Technician Blog

Forensic Science Tech Blog aims to education on matters of the technology behind Forensic Science and also give some helpful topically related tips along the way!

[25 Wrongly-Convicted Felons Exonerated By New Forensic Evidence](#)

The emergence of DNA testing and the ability to use the science of the body's cells to solve crimes has made significant changes in the criminal justice field. However, in the past decades, DNA evidence wasn't available. As a result, hundreds of people were convicted of crimes they didn't commit. As [forensic science](#) has advanced, more is being learned about how to solve crimes. Additionally, new DNA testing techniques have led to the exoneration of wrongly convicted felons.

You don't have to be pulling down a [salary as a forensic technician](#) to know the power of DNA evidence. With this evidence in hand, many people are challenging convictions that might not have been right. Convicted felons are getting a second chance, armed with the practically incontrovertible evidence of their innocence. Here are 25 wrongly convicted felons exonerated by DNA evidence:



1. **Kirk Bloodworth:** The first American on Death Row exonerated by DNA evidence, [Kirk Bloodworth](#) serves an inspiration to many of those who feel they have been wrongly

15. **Bruce Godschalk:** False confessions and government misconduct were factors in the 1987 conviction of [Bruce Godschalk](#) for rape and burglary. He was set free after serving 14.5 years for the crimes, and the real perpetrator has yet to be found.
16. **Paula Gray:** Along with four men, [Paula Gray](#) was convicted of rape and murder. She gave a false confession, and after recanting, was convicted along with the men — and convicted of perjury to boot. DNA evidence exonerated all involved.



17. **Nathaniel Hatchett:** At the age of 17, [Nathaniel Hatchett](#) was arrested for kidnapping, rape and armed robbery. After serving 10 years, he was exonerated when DNA evidence was tested and he was ruled out as a suspect.
18. **Lesly Jean:** After serving nine years, [Lesly Jean](#) was released from prison due to procedural issues, because evidence clearing him was not released. It still took 10 years more for the DNA evidence to completely exonerate him.
19. **Joe Jones:** After serving 6.5 years behind bars for rape and kidnapping, [Joe Jones](#) was released after being exonerated by DNA evidence that showed he wasn't the perpetrator.
20. **Chaunte Ott:** New DNA evidence resulted in the release of [Chaunte Ott](#) 12.5 years after his incarceration. He had been convicted of killing a runaway girl while trying to rob her.
21. **David Shawn Pope:** In 1986, [David Shawn Pope](#) was convicted of aggravated sexual assault. His conviction was largely the result of faulty eye witness accounts and improper evidence. After serving 15 years, new DNA evidence exonerated him.
22. **Willie Rainge:** After spending 17.5 years behind bars, [Willie Rainge](#) was exonerated after new DNA evidence pinpointed the true perpetrator of the rape and murder he was convicted for.
23. **Raymond Santana:** Convicted of assaulting and raping a jogger in New York City, [Raymond Santana](#) was released after serving five years in prison when DNA evidence proved his innocence.
24. **Phillip Leon Thurman:** Blood typing evidence was used to convict [Phillip Leon Thurman](#) of rape and abduction in 1985. However, more sophisticated DNA evidence secured his exoneration and release after 19 years.
25. **Eduardo Velasquez:** After serving 12.5 years [Eduardo Velasquez](#) was released on DNA evidence showing he did not commit the rape and assault he was convicted of. This came even after his conviction was affirmed in 1991.

© Forensic Science Technician 2019