



JULIA R. BATES

LUCAS COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

LUCAS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 700 ADAMS STREET, SUITE 250, TOLEDO, OHIO 43604-5659

TELEPHONE (419) 213-4700 / FACSIMILE (419) 213-4595

November 18, 2024

CONTACT

Steve Slivka
Lucas County Prosecutor's Office
Public Information Officer
419-213-4848

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lucas County Prosecutor's Office Announces Results of First Case Review by the Conviction Integrity Unit

TOLEDO, Ohio – Lucas County Prosecuting Attorney Julia R. Bates announced the creation of the Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU) in July 2024, reaffirming the commitment to justice by the Lucas County Prosecutor's Office and addressing potential wrongful convictions.

The CIU released findings on Nov. 18, 2024 in *State of Ohio v. Terry, CR-18-1636*, the first case reviewed by the unit.

In March 2019, a jury convicted Joel Terry of five counts of rape, finding that the victim was under age 10. During its review, the CIU reexamined DNA testing from the original case, yielding clearer results regarding the DNA mixture. Cybergenetics Laboratory in Pittsburgh conducted the analysis using TrueAllele DNA technology and electronic data from the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation. The analysis compared DNA samples from the victim and Terry, concluding that Terry's DNA was not present.

As part of its review, the CIU also found an intake report from Lucas County Children Services dated Dec. 3, 2018.

"Our responsibility is to pursue justice, not just convictions," Bates said. "The Conviction Integrity Unit reflects our commitment to reviewing cases when credible new evidence arises and we examine that evidence transparently and fairly to ensure justice for all involved."

To ensure the integrity of the case, the state of Ohio filed a motion to appoint independent counsel for Terry to review the findings and decide whether to seek post-conviction relief.