

Letter to District Attorney re: Drug Lab Investigation

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Here's the text of a letter that was sent to District Attorney Kamala Harris from our office today:

Dear District Attorney Harris,

As you know, an investigation has revealed that supervising crime laboratory technician Deborah Madden allegedly tampered with and ingested narcotics evidence while employed by the San Francisco Crime Laboratory. I have also been informed that Ms. Madden provided an oral statement where she informed police that other irregularities were occurring with respect to evidence maintained at the crime lab.

The actions that Ms. Madden allegedly committed have great ramifications. My office has handled a number of trials where Ms. Madden has appeared as both an expert witness and lab technician, including countless preliminary hearings wherein Ms. Madden testified or provided documentary evidence in support of the prosecutor's case and guilty pleas obtained by your office, based on testimony and reports provided by Ms. Madden.

In order to evaluate what, if any, legal remedies are available to those individuals whose cases may have been compromised by Ms. Madden's alleged misconduct, I am requesting the following information be provided to my office:

1. A copy of the statement given by Ms. Deborah Madden to authorities concerning the investigation of this matter;
2. All memoranda, reports, documentation, taped interviews of witnesses, relating to the investigation of Ms. Madden and/or other employees of the the Crime Laboratory in this matter;
3. the specific date the District Attorney's Office became aware of the investigation relating to reports of evidence tampering in the crime lab and Ms. Madden's alleged involvement;
4. Ms. Madden's California Criminal Identification Index (C.I.I. Record, commonly known as a rap sheet – both local and statewide criminal history);
5. The specific date that the District Attorney's Office became aware of Ms. Madden's prior criminal history;
6. A comprehensive list of all criminal cases handled by the Public Defender's office dating back to January 1, 2000, where Ms. Madden was either the analyst or in any way involved in the handling or supervision of narcotic evidence, tested or otherwise.

Please let me know as soon as possible when these items will be provided. I thank you in advance for your cooperation in assisting my office in identifying and reviewing cases that may have been compromised by Ms. Madden's alleged actions in order to ensure that the proper legal remedy is obtained.