Three Suspects Charged with Multiple Offences Following a Burglary Investigation
A ParaDNA® Case Study from Osceola County Sheriff’s Office
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Setting the Scene
A gas station burglary was under investigation by Osceola County Sheriff’s Office when reports of a second burglary were received by a City Police Department. The MO for both crimes was similar. Detectives en route to the city burglary spotted a vehicle matching an eyewitness description and subsequently detained the 3 male occupants. DNA evidence was gathered from the interior of the vehicle, the gas station and also from the premises of an ice cream parlour where a 3rd burglary had recently occurred. Under court order, all 3 suspects provided buccal swabs.

Evaluating the Evidence
Reddish-brown stains were identified on the seat of the suspect’s car and on the floor of the gas station. Each stain was sampled with a wet, sterile cotton swab and then subsampled using the ParaDNA Sample Collector.

Both the stain on the car seat and the stain from the gas station floor were strong matches with the buccal from Suspect A.

Suspect B did not match any of the stains that were analysed with the ParaDNA system.

Case Outcome
All 3 suspects were charged with Burglary of a Structure (FSS 810.02(4A)), Criminal Mischief of more than $1000 (FSS 806.13 (1B3)) and Possession of Burglary Tools (FSS 810.06).

Cellular phone information and witness testimony strengthened the case further, encouraging Suspect B to confess. Additional charges were filed by the City Police Department in relation to the 2nd burglary, which occurred within their jurisdiction.

Suspect C was found to be a strong match with a reddish-brown stain near the cash register of the ice cream parlour.

Impact of Using ParaDNA
• Direct link established between suspects and crime scenes within the County Sheriff’s jurisdiction
• DNA samples selected for State lab processing with confidence and a clear expectation of the outcome
• Investigation time significantly reduced, allowing all 3 cases to be closed quickly
• Interagency cooperation encouraged between the County Sheriff’s Office and the City PD