

1983 sex assault mystery solved by DNA testing

A Florida woman who woke up to a stranger sexually assaulting her 36 years ago may finally get justice [after DNA helped](#) crack the brutal rape case.

The attack happened on August 22, 1983, in the victim's home in Coral Springs. The woman was in her bedroom about 6 a.m. when a man held a steak knife to her neck, [CNN affiliate WPEC reported](#).

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DNA collected at the scene was later sent to a crime lab, but the technology available at the time did not identify a suspect, police said.

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The case went cold — until the victim reached out to the police in March after she saw stories of how investigators are using DNA to solve cases.

Investigators reviewing evidence as part of a cold case initiative sent some items to the Broward Sheriff's Office crime lab for processing using updated technology. On June 27, detectives determined a DNA sample from the victim's clothing belonged to convicted criminal Timothy Norris, police said.

Norris, who is serving a federal sentence in West Virginia for armed bank robbery, has been charged with sexual battery with a weapon and is awaiting extradition to Florida.

Read full, original post: [A woman woke up to a stranger assaulting her in 1983. A DNA match finally led to an arrest](#)