

**ER SOP-09 Guidelines for Receiving Sexual Assault
Collection Kits**

Approved by Director: Dr. Guy Vallaro

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A. Purpose: To ensure that sexual assault evidence collection kits are taken in correctly.

B. Responsibility: Evidence Control Officers (however titled) or designees.

C. Procedure:

All sexual assault evidence submitted to the Division of Scientific Services (DSS) will be handled according to CT Public Act No. 15-207 (An Act Concerning Evidence in Sexual Assault Cases). Evidence associated with these cases will be analyzed according to Unit specific SOP's, except in those instances where cases are submitted as anonymous. Evidence submitted from an individual who wishes to remain anonymous will be held without being examined in a designated area of the DSS for a minimum of five (5) years. The evidence from cases designated as anonymous sexual assaults will be returned to the submitting agency, unexamined, after five (5) years. All submitted evidence from sexual assault cases will be retained at the DSS in a designated long term evidence storage area until adjudication or other appropriate communication is received from the State's Attorney or the submitting agency that it is needed for court purposes.

NOTE: If the DSS is notified that the individual has reported to the investigating agency and is *no longer anonymous*, the evidence will be processed according to standard laboratory procedures.

Toxicology Sexual Assault evidence kit:

1. Follow normal evidence submission SOP's and enter information from the Request for Analysis form (SOP-ER-02:1) into JusticeTrax. Do not open the kit. Check to ensure that the kit is sealed with evidence tape and properly initialed.
2. Select "Toxicology Sexual Assault Kit" when adding evidence to the case. The description will be "CT 400 TOX kit".

This Kit will include requests for Toxicology – "Alcohol Analysis" and "Drug Analysis".

Anonymous kits: This Kit will include a request for Toxicology- "Sexual Assault- Anonymous - TX".

Note: If a different version of the kit is submitted, edit the description to reflect the type of kit.

Individuals: The name of the complainant is entered as the initials of the first and last name.

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3. The main case file will be a yellow colored folder to designate it as a sexual assault case.
4. The kit will be stored in the Evidence Receiving refrigerator until the transfer of sexual assault kits to a representative member of the Toxicology Section occurs.

Forensic Biology/DNA Sexual Assault evidence kit:

1. Follow normal evidence submission SOP's and enter information from the Request for Analysis form (SOP-ER-02:1) into JusticeTrax.
2. Select "CT Sexual Assault Evidence kit" Kit when adding evidence to the case. The description will be "CT 100 kit".

Request: Forensic Biology – "Sexual Assault Kit Analysis".

Anonymous kits:

Request: Forensic Biology – "Sexual Assault- Anonymous- FB".

Note: If a different version of the kit is submitted, edit the description to reflect the type of kit.

3. If a blood vial needs to be removed from the sexual assault kit and transferred to the Toxicology Section for testing, a consent form is needed authorizing the blood to be used for this purpose. The form is provided to the submitting agency to obtain a signature from the complainant. Once this signed form is received, the transfer can be facilitated between members of the Forensic Biology and Toxicology Sections.
4. The main case file will be a yellow colored folder to identify it as a sexual assault.
5. The kit will be stored in the Evidence Receiving refrigerator until the transfer of sexual assault kits to a representative member of the Forensic Biology Section occurs.

D. References:

1. CT Public Act No. 15-207