

**ER SOP-16 General Guidelines for Accepting Postmortem
Toxicology Evidence**

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Approved by Director: Dr. Guy Vallaro

A. Purpose: To ensure that Postmortem evidence submitted for Toxicology testing is taken in correctly.

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

C. Procedure:

Evidence submitted for Postmortem Toxicology testing must have a "Request for Analysis" form (SOP-ER-02:1). Postmortem Toxicology requests are delivered to lab via Representatives from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

1. In addition to the "Request for Analysis" form, a manifest may be utilized when multiple postmortem cases are submitted. In lieu of an Evidence Receipt, the manifest will be signed and dated by the Evidence Control Officer (ECO) or designee and the submitting agency representative. Signatures and date will include acknowledgement of the local case number, medical examiner/requestor, and specimen type (ex. blood, urine, etc.). A copy of the signed/dated manifest will be maintained within each of the main case files. The signed/dated original will be returned to the submitting agency representative.
2. Follow normal evidence submission SOP's and enter the applicable information from the "Request for Analysis" form into JusticeTrax. Include the additional information of:

Individuals

Select "Source"

Evidence

Select "TX OCME kit" Kit (requests will be added as part of the kit)

*Note- The "Request for Analysis" form will have the addition of two letters at the end of the agency case number. These two letters correspond to the medical examiner's initials and shall be used when entering the agency information into JusticeTrax. Specimens shall still be accepted regardless of whether or not these additional letters are listed on the evidence label.

3. Case barcode identifiers are attached to each evidence container and the "Request for Analysis" form. When submitted, case barcode identifiers will also be attached to the manifest copies.

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4. The main case file will be a red colored folder.
5. All evidence will be kept in the refrigerator and is included in the transfer of postmortem evidence to a representative of the Toxicology section.

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