



THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Public Safety

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory

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August 5, 2019

Dear Chief of Police,

With the recent approval of House Bill 49, the Alaska Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory (SCDL) will be implementing some changes to align with the statutory changes. The bill is attached for your convenience. This will impact both front end submission of sexual assault kits (SAKs) as well as our testing procedures. Per the new requirements (found in sections 126-129 of the bill):

1. SAKs should be submitted to the SCDL (or another accredited lab in coordination with the SCDL) within 30 days of your agency collecting the kit.
2. The SCDL must then test each kit within a 12-month deadline.
3. All SAKs are required to be analyzed unless they are determined to be:
 - o Scientifically unviable
 - o Ineligible for CODIS entry
 - o Collected from an anonymous victim
4. Victims should be notified by the submitting law enforcement agency within two weeks of receiving the results, that the SAK has been tested.
5. For every SAK not tested, a reason must be documented by either the law enforcement agency upon submission for storage or by the SCDL.

The attached draft of the Request for Laboratory Services Form will now reflect the permitted reasons for storage under the new requirements. SAKs that do not fall under one of these categories should be submitted for DNA analysis, where a forensic scientist will assess the viability of testing and/or CODIS eligibility:

1. Anonymous victim
2. Does not meet legal criteria of a crime
3. False Report

The SCDL asks that all victim SAKs (adult or minor), suspect SAKs, and known reference samples (buccal swabs from the cheek), continue to be submitted for either testing or storage. Submitting all SAKs to the SCDL in a timely manner will reduce your agency's burden of inventorying SAKs each September, which will continue to be required under this bill.

Sincerely,
David Kanaris
Chief, Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory