



## Sexual Assault Kit Changes

**TO:** Alaska Law Enforcement  
Forensic Nurses and Medical Providers

**FROM:** Michelle L. Collins, Forensic Biology Supervisor *MLC*

**THRU:** David Kanaris, Laboratory Chief *DK*

**DATE:** December 27, 2022

With the recent passage of HB 325, which goes into effect on January 1, 2023, the new language changes the definition of “without consent” as well as provides for additional changes to Alaska’s sex crimes statutes and other criminal statutes. In order to align with the statutory changes, portions of the Victim Sexual Assault Kit paperwork was revised.

### Changes to the Victim Sexual Assault Kit:

- Step 1A- has been renamed to Victim Interview (History of Incident) (*formally Forensic History*).
- Step 1A -additional prompts and question have been added to assist law enforcement to ensure that the victim interview captures as much information as feasible.
- Officer’s initial line has been removed from the Step 1A.
- Added an Anonymous Victim Sexual Assault packet to the kit.
- Anonymous Consent form has been consolidated into one form, which is located in the Anonymous packet.

The modified section 1A is for use only with adult victims who are reporting to law enforcement. A fillable version of the revised forms will be available on the lab website ([Home - CrimeLab - Statewide - Alaska Department of Public Safety](#)) December 30<sup>th</sup>. When obtaining forms from the crime lab website, the user will select the appropriate form set: Adult Victim, Anonymous Victim, Suspect, Pediatric.

Kits with the new forms will be available in early 2023, these forms must be completed and submitted as is and may not be altered. In the meanwhile, the current kits are still appropriate for use, and we will continue to distribute them until the supply is exhausted. We encourage you to obtain and use the updated forms from the website beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>. The paperwork in the kits will still be accepted as we recognize that internet access is not always available to the users of the SAK.

No changes were made to the pediatric kits, suspect paperwork, nor to the collection of the forensic samples prescribed in the kit. Users should continue to follow the kit instructions for all sample/evidence collections.

**Reminders:**

- ***Users are encouraged to utilize the updated forms that will be available on the lab webpage on December 30<sup>th</sup>.***
- ***New kits with updated paperwork are anticipated to be available in early 2023***
- ***Current kits should be used until the supply is exhausted.***
- ***It will be acceptable to use the version of the paperwork found in the kit **only if** the updated forms cannot be obtained.***
- ***SA Kits should only be used for sexual assault investigations. Agencies are encouraged to retain the unused portions of the kits for collecting swab samples in other types of investigations.***
- ***SA Kits are at no cost to law enforcement and medical facilities.***

Questions regarding Section 1A changes can be directed to Katie Tepas (907-269-5412 or [katie.tepas@alaska.gov](mailto:katie.tepas@alaska.gov)), Program Coordinator with the Alaska Department of Public Safety.

As always, questions with regards to the collection procedures in the kits can be directed to Michelle Collins (907-269-5620 or [michelle.collins@alaska.gov](mailto:michelle.collins@alaska.gov)) or Jennifer Foster (907-269-4074 or [jennifer.foster@alaska.gov](mailto:jennifer.foster@alaska.gov)), the Forensic Biology Supervisors at the Alaska Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory.

To obtain kits, please send an e-mail to [dps.supply.orders@alaska.gov](mailto:dps.supply.orders@alaska.gov).

If you are in possession of expired kits, please e-mail [michelle.collins@alaska.gov](mailto:michelle.collins@alaska.gov) first, to determine if your stock should be replaced.