Department of Public Safety

OFFICE OF STATEWIDE SERVICES Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory

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TO:



All Law Enforcement Agencies Forensic Nurses and Medical Providers Survivor / Victim Services Advocacy Agencies Department of Law

David Kanaris, Laboratory Chief FROM:

DATE: February 1, 2023

SUBJECT: Sexual Assault Kit Tracking System

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) is implementing a software for tracking sexual assault evidence kits. System development has been in progress over the last several months, informed by statewide stakeholders from the SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner), law enforcement, legal, and advocacy communities, including survivors. The system (Track-Kit) will provide victims / survivors with a secure, standardized process for obtaining information on the status and location of their kits. This is not a chain of custody system but rather a location and status system. The system is cloud-based (i.e., a website) so there will be nothing additional to install or download.

Key information and compliance features:

- Using the Track-Kit system, medical facilities will be able to enter kit information upon collection and provide victim / survivors with a login and tracking information.
- Medical facilities, law enforcement agencies, and the Alaska Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory then enter dates and kit status information as the kit continues through the kit submission and testing processes through final storage.
- Victim / survivors will be able to log in any time to check the status and sign up for optional text and/or email notifications. The survivor portal will be translated into several languages.
- The system will calculate turnaround times, including the legislatively mandated law enforcement submission of kits to the lab within 30 days and lab testing turnaround times (Alaska Statute 44.41.065).
- Track-Kit will include a report for annual untested kit inventory, relieving the burden on law enforcement agencies to manually conduct the inventory per statute (<u>Alaska Statute 44.41.070</u>).
- System deployment is expected to begin in April and will occur by region throughout the spring and summer of 2023.

Law Enforcement, Medical Providers Victim Services Advocacy Agencies, Department of Law

Over the coming months, agencies will receive additional information from the Crime Lab with more specific deployment and training information. Any questions can be directed to Track-Kit Program Coordinator Ariel Herman <u>ariel.herman@alaska.gov</u>.

Thank you in advance for being a part of this effort to increase justice and safety for survivors across our state.