

## SEXUAL ASSAULT INVESTIGATIVE TIPS

1. Sex Crimes should be notified in any of the following circumstances:
  - Hot Prowl sexual assaults.
  - Complicated crime scenes requiring lab or detective personnel.
  - Exceptionally violent cases where the victim is injured.
  - Any case suspected of being part of a series.
  - High profile cases or those that may generate interest by the media, i.e., young children, elderly victims, unusual suspect profiles or suspects impersonating themselves as police officers.
  - Drug facilitated sexual assaults.
2. If a fresh crime, and there is corroborating evidence, make the arrest and notify Sex Crimes. Ramey is not a problem because of the fleeting nature of rape/sexual assault evidence.
3. If there is a complicated or extensive crime scene, advise the Duty Lieutenant to request the on-call Sex Crimes Sergeant who will evaluate whether to request assistance from the lab.
4. Determine if the suspect ejaculated and where. If the item cannot be collected, i.e., concrete sidewalk, swabs and control samples must be taken. Notify the on-call Sex Crimes Sergeant.
5. SART exams should be obtained if the sexual assault, penile/vaginal penetration, penetration with a foreign object, including fingers, or sodomy, occurred within 72 hours of the report.
6. If oral copulation is alleged and the report is made within 12 hours, obtain a SART exam for mouth or genital swabs even if no other sex act occurred.
7. If over 72 hours and the victim is still in pain or bleeding, a SART exam should be obtained. Consider the amount of force used, number of suspects and the age of the victim. Although biological evidence might have deteriorated, injuries could still be visible.
8. Per 679.04 PC, you must advise a sexual assault survivor of her/his right to have a victim advocate and or support person of their choice present during any follow-up interview with law enforcement authorities. (Interviews conducted during the preliminary field investigation are exempt, but attempts should be made if possible.)

PER 293 PC, advise the victim of his/her right to request their name not become public record. The Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault form, PD-964 FOS, should be used to document both advisals and the victim's response to confidentiality. Forward the original copy to the appropriate investigative unit with property tags, evidence, photos, etc.

## Sexual Assault Investigative Tips

Page 2 of 2

9. If you believe you are investigating a drug-facilitated sexual assault within 96 hours of the assault, obtain a urine sample as soon as possible.
10. Find out name, address and phone number of the first person the victim told about the crime. Interview if possible.
11. If the victim is bitten or the suspect makes oral contact on any part of the victim's body, swabs must be taken.
12. If the victim is bitten, 35 mm photographs need to be taken of the bite with a measuring device and color chart.
13. Get good line-up quality photos and prints of all suspects.
14. Vehicles should be impounded at the police impound lot on Aero Drive and note in your report. Fill out PD Form 831-LA "HOLD" card for Sex Crimes and place on car windshield. Complete vehicle impound report.
15. Keep Sex Crimes advised of any surveillance or special details planned, so that we can become involved, remain informed, and not duplicate efforts.