

TRAINING BULLETIN

A PUBLICATION OF THE SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

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TITLE

COLLECTION OF SECONDARY VICTIM REFERENCE SAMPLE FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT EXAMINATIONS (SARTs) - REVISED

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this training bulletin is to provide information to investigators, regarding the collection of a secondary reference sample from sexual assault victims during a medical evidentiary examination.

II. SCOPE

This training bulletin applies to all members of the Department.

III. BACKGROUND

Senate Bill 22, approved by the Governor on October 8, 2019, requires law enforcement agencies to submit sexual assault forensic evidence to crime labs within certain timeframes or ensure that a rapid turnaround DNA program is in place. Senate Bill 22 also requires crime labs to either process the evidence or transmit the evidence to another crime lab for processing within certain timeframes.

To meet these timeframes, starting February 22, 2022, the San Diego Police Department will be outsourcing current sexual assault rape test (SART) kits to an outside forensic laboratory for testing. As a result, the current practice of collecting one reference sample from the victim during a medical evidentiary examination no longer meets the needs of the Department for the investigation of sexual assaults.

The San Diego Police Department requires two victim reference samples be collected at the time the SART kit is completed. The purpose of the change is to

facilitate as timely an investigation as possible in the interest of justice. Because the first victim reference sample is shipped to an outside laboratory with the SART kit, it is imperative a second victim reference sample is collected and retained in SDPD evidence to be compared with any additional evidence recovered from the crime scene or later during the investigation. This provides the ability to identify those profiles belonging to the victim on any subsequent evidentiary items.

V. PROCEDURES

1. The SART nurse will collect two reference sample swabs from the victim at the time the SART kit is completed.
2. One reference sample will be packaged, by the SART nurse, with the SART kit, as is current protocol.
3. The second and new reference sample will be:
 - a. collected by the SART nurse, using a reference mouth swab kit:
 - b. packaged and sealed by the SART nurse in an envelope:
 - c. maintained separately from the SART kit.
4. SDPD Property Room staff, or a Child Abuse Unit investigator, will transport the SART kit and secondary reference sample swab to SDPD Headquarters Property Room for impounding.
5. The SDPD Property Room staff shall barcode all SART kits and the sexual assault victim secondary reference sample swabs.
 - a. Both items will have separate barcodes. The secondary reference sample shall be retained in the SDPD Property and Evidence Room for future testing.

For questions or if additional reference mouth swab kits are needed, please contact the Crime Laboratory at **(Deleted – records of security)**.