

TRAINING BULLETIN

A PUBLICATION OF THE SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

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LABORATORY CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide direction and information on the newly implemented consumption protocol for the San Diego Police Department Forensic Biology unit within the Crime Laboratory.

II. SCOPE

This Training Bulletin applies to all personnel submitting evidence requests to the Department's Crime Laboratory.

III. BACKGROUND

The San Diego Police Department Crime Lab is dedicated to providing the highest quality customer service possible. As such, efficiencies and processes must be constantly evaluated to identify how to better serve the Department and justice system.

Prior to this change, the Crime Lab required "permission to consume" any evidence in which the evidence item itself may be completely utilized during lab processing, preventing further testing of that item in the future. This permission must come from either the assigned detective, unit, or detective sergeant, or if there is a prosecuting attorney already assigned to the case, the prosecuting attorney must provide permission to consume.

This process is cumbersome and unnecessary, requiring the lab to reach out to each requestor to identify if there is permission to consume. Additionally, if permission is not obtained, the only alternative when consumption is inevitable is to not test the item.

IV. DEFINITIONS

Consumption: Any evidence in which the evidence item itself may be completely utilized during lab processing, preventing further testing of that item in the future.

V. PROCEDURES

Effective Monday December 20th, 2021, the SDPD Crime Lab will no longer seek permission to consume items of evidence from investigative units, alleviating this process for both the Crime Lab and investigative units. Instead, if no prosecuting attorney is assigned, permission to consume items of evidence will be assumed when a work request is received by the lab.

Therefore, detectives must understand that by submitting a work request without a noted prosecuting attorney assigned to the case, the Crime Lab will move forward with consumption of the evidence. If a prosecuting attorney is identified, the Crime Lab will continue the current process of seeking permission to consume evidence from the assigned attorney.