

From: Paulson, Todd L [REDACTED]  
Subject: Rape Kit Backlog Request  
Date: February 25, 2015 at 9:28 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

Below are the statistics that were requested for rape kits recovered and rape kits tested back to 2004. There is an attachment that contains the protocols for the recovery of our rape kits. The procedure attachment was reviewed by our Office of General Counsel and some information was redacted for security purposes. Below the statistics are some of the reasons that rape kits are not tested. Please feel free to contact me regarding clarification or if additional information is needed.

I need to put a caveat on the following statistics. Simply taking the difference between the number recovered and the number tested does not give an exact number of untested kits. The number of untested kits is constantly fluctuating. These numbers are to the best of our knowledge what we recovered and tested as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the given year.

<b>Year</b>	<b><u>RK Collected</u></b>	<b><u>RK Tested</u></b>
2014	322	137
2013	362	118
2012	366	140
2011	232	87
2010	227	172
2009	327	145
2008	307	183
2007	228	200
2006	240	151
2005	160	130
2004	132	116

While the following list is not all inclusive, it represents some of the reasons that rape kits are not tested on all cases. Regardless of the reason, KCPD maintains and secures all rape kits for a time no less than the statute of limitations mandates for the specified offense.

- No Prosecution (At Victim Request)
- Anonymous Kit – (No Report Filed)
- Declined by Prosecutor
- Case Adjudicated
- Offense outside of KCPD Jurisdiction

- Alford Pleas
- DNA not Probative
- Child on Child cases
- Victim Deceased (Cold Cases)

KCPD maintains a great working relationship not only internally for the best interest of the survivors, but with our prosecutors and our outside victim advocacy groups. Our goal is to provide the best service we can to the survivor and ensure that the best possible case is presented for prosecution.

It has been a pleasure to work with you in order to get this information to the Joyful Heart Foundation. Again, please feel free to contact me or have representatives from the Joyful Heart Foundation contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Captain Todd Paulson  
KCPD – Special Victims Unit



## Crime Scene Procedure Manual

Revision: 12 Issued By: Bartch, Melanie J Effective Date: 10/17/2014

Document ID: 2192 Page 123 of 149

### RAPE KIT RECOVERY

#### 1. Introduction

1.1. When dealing with sexual assaults, the victim is usually taken to the hospital and a sexual assault examination is conducted by certified medical personnel. The medical personnel performing the examination collect and seal all of the clothing and sexual assault evidence. Sexual assault kits are routinely collected from area hospitals during the night shift.

#### 2. Method

##### 2.1 Collection

2.1.1 Review the Rape Kit Run spreadsheet located here: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to see which hospitals have not been visited recently. (**Note:** CSTs go to certain hospitals on a regular basis and certain hospitals are not visited unless they call and request us to make a pick up. Hospitals visited on a regular basis include: St. Luke's – Plaza, Truman Medical Center, Children's Mercy Hospital, North Kansas City Hospital, St. Joseph Health Center, and Research Medical Center).

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2.1.5 Obtain ONLY the evidence that is marked for Kansas City Missouri Police (KCMO/KCPD).

2.1.6 Each item of evidence should be examined to verify that the seals are intact and initialed, a description of the evidence is written on the package, and the victim's name is present. If any of these criteria are not met the evidence must not be collected and the nurse/security officer informed of the problem. If the criteria are met the evidence can be collected and the proper chain-of-custody measures should be taken.

2.1.7 Chain of custody is handled differently at each hospital. Most hospitals have a chain-of-custody form for each case. The CST must locate the form for each case, verify all items listed are present, sign, and maintain a copy of the form.

2.1.8 Some hospitals utilize both chain-of-custody forms and the log in book. All versions of the chain of custody should be completed at a hospital.

2.1.9 If no chain of custody form is present, the case is not located in the log book, or all items are not listed or present the items should not be collected and the nurse/security officer should be informed of the problem.

##### 2.2 Recovery

2.2.1 The kits are to be packaged at the laboratory. Some evidence will have case numbers already assigned. Verify the case numbers written on the evidence is the correct by using Tiburon. If no case number is written on

## **Crime Scene Procedure Manual**

**Revision:** 12 **Issued By:** Bartch, Melanie J **Effective Date:** 10/17/2014

Document ID: 2192 Page 124 of 149

the evidence or chain-of-custody, search Tiburon using the victim's name and date of offense. If a valid case number is already assigned, proceed using this number.

2.2.2. If no case number is found, pull a case number for Recovered Property by calling dispatch.

2.2.1. Since no case number was previously assigned to the case the CST is responsible for creating the original Tiburon report, NOT a crime scene report.

2.1.14 Label each package with an item number, case number, CST initials, and date of collection.

2.1.15 Recover the evidence in the packages as they were collected from the hospital. Do not open the packages unless the packaging violates KCPD packaging guidelines, a CSIS procedure, or an exigent circumstance is present.

2.1.16 Sexual assault evidence should be packaged according to CSIS packaging procedures and stored in the appropriate vault.

### **2.3 Anonymous Rape Kits**

Occasionally, sexual assault kits will be recovered with no victim listed. These kits are referred to as Anonymous Rape Kits.

2.3.1 A case number for Recovered Property should be obtained from dispatch.

2.3.2 In Tiburon the victim is listed as unknown.

2.3.3 The 236 will be marked with an "x" at "other" and "physical evidence" will be written on the given line.

2.3.4 The items recovered will contain the hospital anonymous report identification number. For example: "Sealed sexual assault kit 01-000124-12". Enter the anonymous report number given at the hospital into the "Agency Number" field in Forensic Advantage.

2.3.5 The evidence will be placed in the [REDACTED] for storage.

2.3.6 Notify hospital personnel of the KCPD CRN you created for the anonymous rape kit (see "Results" section).

### **2.4 Additional Evidence at Hospitals**

2.4.1 The security office at Truman Medical Center is routinely checked for firearms evidence. Other area hospitals may have firearms evidence and is typically collected only when requested.

2.4.2 Recovery for firearms evidence is the same as listed above for sexual assault kits.

2.4.3 Occasionally, evidence will be collected that is not in regard to a sexual offense (i.e. clothing from a homicide/shooting victim). This evidence is recovered in the same manner as listed above for rape kits.

## **Crime Scene Procedure Manual**

**Revision:** 12 **Issued By:** Bartch, Melanie J **Effective Date:** 10/17/2014

**3. Documentation**

3.1 Some form of chain-of-custody must be obtained and kept with the field notes. For hospitals that do not provide a chain-of-custody, the CST's field notes will be used.

Minimum requirements for field notes/chain-of-custody include: the name of the hospital, the hospital's address, the date and time of receipt, full name and position of the person from whom the evidence was received, the name of the victim, the specific items recovered, the case report number, and the type of offense (rape, sodomy, recovered property, etc.).

3.2 The chain-of-custody/your notes will be properly filled out, scanned, and placed in the Object Repository in Forensic Advantage under the appropriate case record

3.3 No report will be written for sexual assault/firearms/miscellaneous evidence recovery.

3.4 After scanning in the chain-of-custody/notes, the Case Record Status will be changed to "Exam Finished".

**4. Results**

Hospital personnel, listed below, will be contacted and given the case number related to the medical record number/unique hospital number identifier if an anonymous rape kit was collected from their hospital:

[REDACTED]