

Procedure

3.5

**EFFECTIVE
DATE
2-5-01**

Eugene Police Department



Rape Kit Procedures

3.5.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

PART I - Responsibilities and Procedures for All Personnel

- A. General guideline
- B. Oral sodomy cases
- C. Deceased victims
- D. Special circumstances – other victims

3.5.2 RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURES FOR ALL PERSONNEL

A. General guidelines

1. Remember that a rape exam yields evidence that you can't get any other way, such as signs of trauma, bite mark documentation, and bruising. Ask to have these photographed. Do not hesitate to have an officer of the same gender as the victim assist you in taking the photographs.
2. If more than 72 to 90 hours have elapsed since the time of the incident, it is very unlikely that sperm will still be present. If you are in doubt, collect a rape kit.
3. Always collect as soon as possible the underwear that the victim was wearing during or immediately after the incident. (This is especially important for those cases with a long elapsed time between incident and exam.) Ensure you collect the underwear worn at the time of the incident if different from that worn at the time of the exam.
4. Showering, bathing, and douching do not eliminate the possibility of finding sperm from internal swab samples (e.g., vaginal, rectal).
5. If oral contact on a victim's body surface was made by the suspect, swab the affected area for a saliva transfer if the victim hasn't bathed. Showering and bathing will eliminate the possibility of finding saliva on the surface skin of a victim (e.g., bite marks, hickeys.)

6. No DNA will be found from the suspect in rape kit samples when the sexual assault involved only digital (finger) or other foreign object penetration. The important DNA will be on the suspect or the object used.
7. In cases of anal sodomy, have the attending health professional collect internal rectal swabs and swabs around the opening of the anus. Also collect the underwear that was worn during or immediately after the incident.
8. Always package each piece of seized clothing separately in a brown paper bag.
9. Include copies of any and all paperwork (e.g., copies of the worksheet from the rape kit, medical exam) either in your report or routed separately to the Violent Crimes Unit.
10. If you are in doubt, collect a rape kit. The crime lab will examine the samples even if they were collected outside the guidelines described above.

B. Oral sodomy cases

1. Female victims

- a. Victim receiving - collect vaginal and/or anal swabs for rape kit.
- b. Victim giving - collect oral swabs. Also collect all upper garments worn by the victim so they can be examined for additional semen stains.

2. Male victims

- a. Victim receiving - collect a penile swabbing evidence kit.
- b. Victim giving - collect oral swabs. Also collect all upper garments worn by the victim so they can be examined for additional semen stains. If the male or female suspect is contacted and it is unlikely they have cleaned up since the crime, collect penile or vaginal swabs.

C. Deceased victims

1. When sexual assault is suspected you will normally secure the crime scene and investigators from the Violent Crimes Unit would ensure the body is processed for evidence.
2. The time lines described above do not hold for deceased victims. Normally, rape kit samples (vaginal, oral, rectal) will be collected from deceased victims regardless of gender. Penile kit samples (penis shaft, scrotum) will be obtained from deceased male victims, as well as blood, head hair, and pubic hair standards.

3. The collection of fingernail clippings or scrapings may be necessary, depending on the case. This evidence can be preserved by placing paper bags over the decedent's hands.

D. Special circumstances – other victims

1. Children often do not clean themselves, or get cleaned thoroughly. They may also be unable to clearly articulate or remember time lines accurately. For these reasons, always do a rape exam on children (if anything more than touching is suspected) and document any physical trauma.
2. For the elderly and mentally handicapped, keep the above considerations in mind.