



State of Wyoming
Office of the Attorney General
Division of Criminal Investigation
Steven R. Woodson, Director

Matthew H. Mead
Governor
Peter K. Michael
Attorney General

December 2, 2016

To: Sheriff's and Chiefs of Police

RE: Sexual Assault Kit Submission

Ms. Cara Chambers, the Director of Victim Services, has asked that we attempt to determine if agencies are holding sexual assault kits, including "non-reported" kits. Responses indicate that some agencies are holding the "non-reported" kits for various periods of time before destruction and not submitting them to the crime lab for analysis.

Several states have enacted legislation regarding sexual assault kit submissions. In an effort to avoid unnecessary legislation, I encourage all agencies to submit any untested sexual assault kits to the lab for analysis. Additionally, the Sexual Assault Survivors' Bill of Rights Act of 2016, which was signed into federal law October 7th, 2016, has significant implications for the storage, testing and destruction of evidence collection kits.

The importance of this testing cannot be understated. If we are able to obtain a DNA profile, even from a non-reported case, and the profile meets the FBI's criteria, it can be entered into the National CODIS database. This entry allows the profile to be searched against all previous entries and any future entries for potential matches. Thus, the profile may identify a suspect who is responsible for multiple assaults or other crimes, even from a non-reported kit. I am informed by our CODIS Administrator that nationwide there has been significant success in matching non-reported profiles to other crimes.

We will conduct analysis, or coordinate analysis with the FBI, in any case where a crime is alleged. Even in cases where the victim does not want to report the incident. Again, I would strongly encourage you to please send in all the sexual assault kits, including non-reported kits, for analysis and potential entry into the CODIS database.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steven Woodson", is written over the typed name.

Steven Woodson
Director