



## SLED Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit Instructions

This kit is designed to assist the examining physician and nurse or S.A.N.E. in the collection of evidentiary specimens from both adult and child victims for analysis by the SLED Forensic Laboratory. Sexual Assault is a legal matter, not a medical diagnosis. Conclusions or opinions should neither be conveyed to the victim nor written in the record. If you have questions concerning the use of this kit, please call the SLED DNA Casework Department at 896-7300 during business hours or at 737-9000 after 5 p.m.

### STEP 1 STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA STATE OFFICE OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE (SOVA) FORMS

Fill out *all* information requested on both the Medical Examination Release Form and the SAP Billing Statement and have victim (or parent/guardian, if applicable) and witness sign where indicated.

### STEP 2 SEXUAL ASSAULT EXAMINATION PROTOCOL FORM

- Print protocol form from [sled.sc.gov](http://sled.sc.gov).
- Fill out all information requested.
- Make two copies and distribute to local law enforcement and SLED. Keep the original copy for hospital records.

**NOTE:** *Do not send SOVA a copy of this protocol — only the two forms listed in step 1.*

### STEP 3 COLLECTION OF OUTER CLOTHING

**Please Note:**

1. Wet or damp clothing should be air dried before packaging.
2. If victim changed clothes after the alleged assault, collect only the items in direct contact with the victim's genital area. Notify law enforcement officer so that clothing worn at the time of the assault can be collected by police.
3. Do not cut through any existing holes, rips or stains in the victim's clothing. Do not shake out the victim's clothing or microscopic evidence could be lost.
4. If additional clothing bags are required, use new, paper (grocery-type) bags.

- Unfold and place a clean hospital bed sheet on the floor.
- Remove paper sheet from the DEBRIS COLLECTION bag, unfold and place over the bed sheet.
- Instruct victim to stand in center of paper sheet and carefully disrobe.
- Collect each item of clothing as removed and place in the OUTER CLOTHING bag.
- Seal and fill out all information requested on the bag label. **DO NOT PLACE OUTER CLOTHING IN KIT BOX.**
- Place underwear/panties worn by the victim at the time of and/or after the assault in the paper bag labeled UNDERWEAR.
- Seal and fill out information requested on bag label.
- **PLACE BAG WITH UNDERWEAR INTO THE KIT BOX. DO NOT PLACE INTO THE OUTER CLOTHING BAG. NOTE:** *Please do not collect the hospital sheet for submission.*

**STEP 4 MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTION** (For items not covered by other samples)

- Collect item or sample (condom, hair, tampon, sanitary napkin, etc.) and place in the envelope marked "MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTION".
- Note the location where the debris was collected from on the drawings on the envelope.
- Seal the envelope with one piece of the evidence tape provided and fill out all information requested on the front and back of the envelope.

**STEP 5 SUSPECTED SALIVA** (For the collection of possible saliva on the victim's body where the suspect may have bitten, licked, kissed, or sucked.)

- Locate the envelope labeled SUSPECTED SALIVA.
- Lightly moisten one swab(s) with sterile water. Leave the other swab dry.
- Thoroughly swab the site with the wet swab, and then go over the same area with the dry swab.
- Allow the swab(s) to air dry, and then place them back into the envelope.
- Seal the envelope with one piece of the evidence tape provided and fill out all information requested on the front and back of the envelope.

**Note:** If more than one assailant is alleged to have had this type of contact with the victim, please place swabs in separate, clean envelopes to minimize the chance of cross - contamination.

**STEP 6 ORAL SWABS** (For detection of semen/spermatozoa in the mouth - please collect only if oral assault is alleged within the last 2-3 hours)

- Locate the envelope labeled ORAL SWABS.
- Using both swabs provided, carefully swab the buccal area, gum line, and lips (do not moisten swabs prior to collection).
- Allow swabs to air dry.
- Place the swabs back in the envelope.
- Seal the envelope with a piece of the evidence tape provided and fill out all requested information.

**STEP 7 FINGERNAIL SCRAPINGS** (Collect only if victim scratched assailant's skin)

Left Hand:

- Remove folded paper labeled "L" and fingernail scraper provided in the FINGERNAIL SCRAPINGS envelope.
- Unfold and place on a flat surface.
- Hold the victim's left hand over the paper and scrape under all five fingernails, allowing any debris present to fall onto the paper.
- Place used scraper in the center of the paper, refold paper to retain debris and scraper, and return to FINGERNAIL SCRAPINGS envelope.
- Seal the envelope with a piece of the evidence tape provided and fill out all requested information.

Right Hand:

- Follow same procedure for right hand using folded paper labeled "R". Seal the envelope with a piece of the evidence tape provided and fill out all requested information.

**STEP 8 KNOWN DNA STANDARD – BUCCAL SWAB** (For DNA Analysis comparison)

**NOTE: *This sample is required on all cases***

- Locate envelope marked "KNOWN DNA STANDARD - BUCCAL SWAB".
- Using sterile swabs provided, rub inside surface of the cheek area to collect skin cells (do not moisten swabs prior to collection).
- Allow swabs to air dry, then place back into the envelope.
- Seal the envelope with a piece of the evidence tape provided and fill out all requested information.

**STEP 9 BLOOD SAMPLE FOR TOXICOLOGY ANALYSIS**

**Note:** If "Date Rape" drugs are suspected, see supplemental instruction sheet for additional collection information.

- Using normal hospital/lab procedure, collect a sample from the victim into a gray stoppered tube from lab/hospital stock.
- Immediately after collection, write the victim's name, date and time of collection and your initials on the blood tube label.
- Fill out all information requested on the outside of the plastic bag labeled KNOWN BLOOD SAMPLE — TOXICOLOGY.
- Place the filled tube into the bubble pack provided, and place the bubble pack into the plastic bag.

**STEP 10 PUBIC HAIR COMBINGS**(To obtain pubic hairs shed by the assailant during the assault)

- Remove paper towel and comb provided in the envelope labeled PUBIC HAIR COMBINGS.
- Place paper towel under victim's buttocks.
- Using comb provided, comb pubic hair in downward strokes so that any loose hairs and/ or debris will fall onto the paper towel.
- Refold in a manner to retain both comb and any evidence present.
- Return to the PUBIC HAIR COMBINGS envelope.
- Seal the envelope with a piece of the evidence tape provided and fill out all requested information.

**STEP 11 VAGINAL SWABS**

- Locate envelope labeled VAGINAL SWABS.
- Using all swabs provided, carefully swab the vaginal walls and cervix (do not moisten swabs prior to collection).
- Allow swabs to air dry.
- Place the swabs back in the envelope.
- Seal the envelope with a piece of the evidence tape provided and fill out all requested information

**STEP 12 RECTAL SWABS** (Collect only if rectal assault is alleged)

- Locate the envelope labeled RECTAL SWABS.
- Using both provided, carefully swab the rectal canal (moisten swabs with sterile water prior to collection only if necessary).
- Allow swabs to air dry.
- Place the swabs back in the envelope.
- Seal the envelope with a piece of the evidence tape provided and fill out all requested information.

**STEP 13 SUSPECTED BODY FLUID** (For collection of any foreign body fluids (blood, semen, saliva, sweat) found on the body in areas not previously designated (i.e. vulvar, perineal, torso, arms, or legs))

- Locate the envelope labeled SUSPECTED BODY FLUID.
- Examine the victim's body for possible body fluids.
- If found, moisten swab(s) provided with sterile water.
- Thoroughly swab the suspected area(s).
- Allow swab(s) to air dry
- Place the swab(s) back in the envelope.
- Note the location from which the sample(s) were taken on the drawings on the back of the envelope.
- Seal the envelope with a piece of the evidence tape provided and fill out all requested information

**NOTE:** If oral assault of the victim is alleged, collect at least one external vulvar swab using the above instructions.

**NOTE:** It is *very important* to indicate on the envelope which body fluid is suspected.

**PLEASE REVIEW FINAL INSTRUCTIONS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE PRIOR TO SEALING KIT**

## FINAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Ensure that all information on forms and evidence envelopes and containers has been completely filled out and that all requested signatures and dates have been completed.
2. Forward the Medical Examination Release Form and the SAP Billing Statement to the State Office of Victim Assistance (SOVA) at the address listed on the forms.
3. Make two copies of Sexual Assault Examination Protocol. Retain the original for hospital records, fold and place one copy in the kit box, and give the investigating officer a copy. Do *not* send a copy to SOVA.
4. All evidence envelopes (used and unused) printed in red are to be placed into the red DNA SECTION Evidence Distribution Envelope. NOTE: Please mark envelopes that were NOT used in the appropriate box on the envelope. You may keep any unused swabs.

The items to be placed in the red envelope include the following:

- a. KNOWN DNA STANDARD - BUCCAL SWABS Envelope
- b. SUSPECTED BODY FLUID Envelope
- c. SUSPECTED SALIVA Envelope
- d. VAGINAL SWABS Envelope
- e. ORAL SWABS Envelope
- f. RECTAL SWABS Envelope
- g. FINGERNAIL SCRAPINGS Envelope
- h. PUBIC HAIR COMBINGS Envelope
- i. MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTION Envelope

Seal the Evidence Distribution envelope with evidence tape provided, and place into the kit box.

5. Place the plastic evidence bag with the green label containing the gray stoppered tube of blood into the green TOXICOLOGY SECTION Evidence Distribution envelope. Seal the envelope with evidence tape provided and place into the kit box.
6. Place *both* Evidence Distribution Envelopes (red and green) into the kit box *along with the sealed Underwear bag and Debris Collection bag*.
7. Fill out all information requested on the kit box top, then affix the biohazard label where indicated.
8. Initial the evidence tape and affix where indicated on the sides of the box.
9. Complete initial entry on the CHAIN OF CUSTODY label on the bottom of kit box. Transfer sealed kit and sealed OUTER CLOTHING BAG to investigating officer.

**Note:** If the investigating officer is not present at the time the kit is ready for transfer, place the sealed kit and OUTER CLOTHING bag in a secure area, and hold for pickup by the investigating officer. The kit should be refrigerated if held for more than an hour.