

Sexual Assault Investigations

601.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide employees with guidelines for responding to reports of sexual assault. This agency will strive:

- (a) To afford maximum protection and support to victims of sexual assault or abuse through a coordinated program of law enforcement and available victim services with an emphasis on a victim centered approach.
- (b) To reaffirm peace officers' authority and responsibility to conducting thorough preliminary and follow up investigations and to make arrest decisions in accordance with established probable cause standards.
- (c) To increase the opportunity for prosecution and victim services.

Mandatory notifications requirements are addressed in the Child Abuse and Adult Abuse policies.

601.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Consent - As defined by Minn. Stat. 609.341, which states:

- (a) Words or overt actions by a person indicating a freely given present agreement to perform a particular sexual act with the actor. Consent does not mean the existence of a prior or current social relationship between the actor and the complainant or that the complainant failed to resist a particular sexual act.
- (b) A person who is mentally incapacitated or physically helpless as defined by Minnesota Statute 609.341 cannot consent to a sexual act.
- (c) Corroboration of the victim's testimony is not required to show lack of consent.

Child or Minor - A person under the age of 18.

Medical Forensic Examiner - The health care provider conducting a sexual assault medical forensic examination.

Sexual assault - Any crime or attempted crime of a sexual nature, to include, but not limited to, offenses defined in Minn. Stat. § 609.293 and Minn. Stat. § 609.342 through Minn. Stat. § 609.3453.

Family and Household Member - As defined in Minn. Stat. 518.B.01 Subd.2.b. to include:

- (a) Spouses or former spouses
- (b) Parents and children
- (c) Persons related by blood
- (d) Persons who are presently residing together or who have resided together in the past
- (e) Persons who have a child in common regardless of whether they have been married or have lived together at any time

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- (f) A man and woman if the woman is pregnant and the man is alleged to be the father, regardless of whether they have been married or have lived together at any time
- (g) Persons involved in a significant romantic or sexual relationship

Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examination - An examination of a sexual assault patient by a health care provider, ideally one who has specialized education and clinical experience in the collection of forensic evidence and treatment of these patients.

Victim Advocate - A Sexual Assault Counselor defined by Minn. Stat. 595.02, Subd. 1(k) and/or Domestic Abuse Advocate as defined by Minn. Stat. 595.02, Subd. 1(1) who provide confidential advocacy services to victims of sexual assault and domestic abuse. Victim advocates as defined provide coverage in all counties in Minnesota. Minnesota Office of Justice Programs (MN OJP) can assist departments in locating their local victim advocacy agency for the purposes outlined in this policy.

Victim Centered - A victim-centered approach prioritizes the safety, privacy and well-being of the victim and aims to create a supportive environment in which the victim's rights are respected and in which they are treated with dignity and respect. This approach acknowledges and respects a victims' input into the criminal justice response and recognizes victims are not responsible for the crimes committed against them. This approach also recommends that victims are not charged with underage consumption or other minor offenses when they report being the victim of a sexual assault.

Vulnerable Adult - Any person 18 years of age or older who:

- (a) Is a resident inpatient of a facility as defined in Minn. Stat. 626.5572, Subd. 6;
- (b) Receives services at or from a facility required to be licensed to serve adults under sections 245A.01 to 245A.15, except that a person receiving outpatient services for treatment of chemical dependency or mental illness, or one who is committed as a sexual psychopathic personality or as a sexually dangerous person under chapter 253B, is not considered a vulnerable adult unless the person meets the requirements of clause (4);
- (c) Receives services from a home care provider required to be licensed under sections 144A.43 to 144A.482; or from a person or organization that exclusively offers, provides, or arranges for personal care assistance services under the medical assistance program as authorized under sections 256B.0625, subdivision 19a, 256B.0651 to 256B.0654, and 256B.0659; or
- (d) Regardless of residence or whether any type of service is received, possesses a physical or mental infirmity or other physical, mental, or emotional dysfunction:
 - 1. That impairs the individual's ability to provide adequately for the individual's own care without assistance, including the provision of food, shelter, clothing, health care, or supervision; and
 - 2. Because of the dysfunction or infirmity and the need for assistance, the individual has an impaired ability to protect the individual from maltreatment.

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601.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Rochester Police Department to recognize sexual assault as a serious problem in society and to protect victims of sexual assault by ensuring its peace officers understand the laws governing this area. Sexual assault crimes are under-reported to law enforcement and the goal of this policy is in part to improve victim experience in reporting so that more people are encouraged to report. The Rochester Police Department will receive reports of sexual assaults, regardless of the jurisdiction where the incident occurred.

All employees should take a professional, victim-centered approach to sexual assaults, protectively investigate these crimes, and coordinate with prosecution in a manner that helps restore the victim's dignity and autonomy. While doing so, it shall be this agency's goal to decrease the victim's distress, increase the victim's understanding of the criminal justice system and process, and promote public safety.

Peace officers will utilize this policy in response to sexual assault reported to this agency. This agency will aggressively enforce the laws without bias and prejudice based on race, marital status, sexual orientation, economic status, age, disability, gender, religion, creed, or national origin.

The Rochester Police Department participates in the Olmsted County Sexual Assault Interagency Council (SAIC). The SAIC is a multi-disciplinary group formed to develop a victim-centered, culturally competent response to sexual assaults reported in Rochester and Olmsted County.

It is the policy of the Police Department to work in collaboration with other SAIC agencies to provide an appropriate law enforcement response to victims of sexual assault.

601.3 QUALIFIED INVESTIGATORS

Qualified investigators should be available for assignment of sexual assault investigations. These investigators should:

- (a) Have specialized training in, and be familiar with, interview techniques and the medical and legal issues that are specific to sexual assault investigations.
- (b) Conduct follow-up interviews and investigation.
- (c) Present appropriate cases of alleged sexual assault to the prosecutor for review.
- (d) Utilize Multidisciplinary Teams including, partner law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, social service agencies, Olmsted County Victim Services and medical personnel.

601.4 OFFICER RESPONSE

Upon receiving a report of a sexual assault, the dispatcher should assign the call a high priority. Depending upon the circumstances at the scene, at least one officer should be assigned to the incident as soon as possible.

Communications Unit personnel are expected to gather as much information as is necessary to provide a safe and appropriate response. In most cases, it is not necessary for Communications Unit personnel to gather great detail about the nature of the offense or the acts committed against

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the victim. In every case of a reported sexual assault, the dispatcher should attempt to gather as much of the following information as is possible:

- (a) Name, address and current location of the victim.
- (b) Name, address and phone number of the reporter, if other than the victim.
- (c) Determine if emergency medical care is needed.
- (d) Determine if the assailant is present.
- (e) Determine where and approximately when the assault took place.

Communications personnel and/or law enforcement officers should inform the victim of ways to ensure critical evidence is not lost, to include the following:

- (a) Suggest that the victim not bathe, or clean him or herself if the assault took place recently.
- (b) Recommend that if a victim needs to relieve himself or herself, they should collect urine in a clean jar for testing, and should avoid wiping after urination.
- (c) Asking the victim to collect any clothing worn during or after the assault and if possible, place in a paper bag, instructing the victim not to wash the clothing (per department policy).
- (d) Reassure the victim that evidence may still be identified and recovered if they have bathed or made other physical changes.

Officers should respond directly and without unreasonable delay to the victim's location. If the victim is at a different location than the scene of the assault, consideration should be given to the need for assistance in securing and protecting the crime scene. In all cases, victim and officer safety are primary concerns.

Upon arriving at the victim's location, the responding officer should determine whether there is an immediate need for medical attention to physical injuries suffered by the victim. If the victim is already at the hospital or other medical facility, medical personnel shall determine the need for medical attention.

The responding officer should speak with the victim only enough to learn:

- (a) What type of crime has been committed,
- (b) By whom it was committed (to determine if there is a public safety risk),
- (c) Where the crime took place (to determine jurisdiction, potential crime scene(s), and/or evidence to be collected), and
- (d) Approximately how long ago the crime was committed.

When interacting with victims, officers shall do the following:

- (a) Recognize that the victim experienced a traumatic incident and may not be willing or able to assist with the criminal investigation.

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- (b) The officer shall attempt to determine the location/jurisdiction where the assault took place.
- (c) Explain the reporting process including the roles of the first responder, investigator, and anyone else with whom the victim will likely interact during the course of the investigation.
- (d) Officers are encouraged to connect the victim with local victim advocates as soon as possible. Inform the victim that there are confidential victim advocates available to address any needs they might have and to support them through the criminal justice system process. Provide the victim with contact information for the local victim advocate. Upon victim request the officer can offer to contact local victim advocate on behalf of the victim.
- (e) Ask about and document signs and symptoms of injury, to include strangulation. Officers shall attempt to obtain a signed medical release from the victim.
- (f) Ensure that the victim knows they can go to a designated facility for a forensic medical exam. Offer to arrange for transportation for the victim.
- (g) Identify and attempt to interview potential witnesses to the sexual assault and/or anyone the victim told about the sexual assault.
- (h) Request preferred contact information for the victim for follow-up.

If the Rochester Police Department learns that both the victim and the accused are members of the Minnesota National Guard, the Department shall provide a copy of the summary to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (Minn. Stat. § 609.3459).

601.4.1 VICTIM ADVOCACY RESPONSE COORDINATION

Victim Services Advocates often provide invaluable services to the victim of a sexual assault, and can act as a resource in the continued investigation of a case. In all cases, the responding officer should determine if the victim has been offered the services of a Victim Services Advocate. If services have not been offered, the responding officer should thoroughly explain the availability of and services provided by Victim Services. If desired by the victim, the responding officer should initiate contact with a Victim Services Advocate.

When it has been determined that a sexual assault was committed in Rochester, the responding officer should contact a Patrol Division Supervisor.

601.4.2 SUPERVISOR RESPONSE

The Patrol Division Supervisor will assess the information received from the responding officer to determine the appropriate Patrol Division response to the incident. In determining the appropriate Patrol Division response, the Supervisor should consider:

- (a) Officer's findings from the initial interview with the victim and/or reporter.
- (b) Witness statements.
- (c) Existence and location of crime scene(s).
- (d) Need for immediate apprehension of the suspect(s).

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Based on the above information, the Supervisor should determine whether his/her presence is needed at the victim location and/or the crime scene. In all cases, the Supervisor should notify the appropriate Investigative Division supervisor or the on-call Sergeant/Investigator. The Investigative Division response will be determined after consultation with the Patrol Division supervisor.

The Patrol Division Supervisor should determine whether the victim has been informed of the services provided by a Victim Services Advocate. If this has not been done, the Supervisor should inform the victim or direct the responding officer to inform the victim. If desired by the victim, the Supervisor or the responding officer should initiate contact with a Victim Services Advocate.

601.5 INTERVIEW CONSIDERATIONS

This agency recognizes that victims of sexual assault due to their age or physical, mental or emotional distress, are better served by utilizing trauma informed interviewing techniques and strategies. Such interview techniques and strategies eliminate the duplication of interviews and use a question and answer interviewing format with questioning nondirective as possible to elicit spontaneous responses.

An Investigator normally should conduct interviews with sexual assault victims. Whenever possible, a one-on-one interview should be conducted. However, this should not be done at the expense of causing suffering/hardship on the part of the victim. If a victim has requested the services of a Victim Services Advocate, the assigned advocate normally should be allowed to be with the victim during any interview.

In recognizing the need for non-traditional interviewing techniques for sexual assault victims, officers should consider the following:

- (a) Offer to have a confidential victim advocate present (if possible) if the victim would benefit from additional support during the process.
- (b) Whenever possible, conduct victim interviews in person.
- (c) Make an effort to conduct the interview in a welcoming environment.
- (d) Let the victim share the details at their own pace.
- (e) Recognize victims of trauma may have difficulty remembering incidents in a linear fashion and may remember details in days and weeks following the assault.
- (f) After the initial interview, consider reaching out to the victim within a few days, after at least one sleep cycle to ask if they remember any additional details.
- (g) Depending on the victim, additional interviews might be needed to gather additional information. Offer support from a victim advocate to the victim to help facilitate engagement with the investigative process and healing.
- (h) Some victims do remember details vividly and might want to be interviewed immediately.

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- (i) During initial and subsequent victim interviews, officers should note the following information as victims share it, recognizing that a victim may not be able to recall all the details of the assault during a particular interview.
 - 1. Whether the suspect was known to the victim
 - 2. How long the victim knew the suspect
 - 3. The circumstances of their meeting and if there is any indication of the use of drugs or alcohol to facilitate the sexual assault
 - 4. The extent of their previous or current relationship
 - 5. Any behavioral changes that led the situation from one based on consent to one of submission, coercion, fear, or force
 - 6. Specific actions, statements, and/or thoughts of both victim and suspect immediately prior, during, and after assault
 - 7. Relevant communication through social media, email, text messages, or any other forms of communication

601.5.1 MINORS AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

This agency recognizes that certain victims, due to their age or a physical, mental, or emotional distress, are better served by utilizing interview techniques and strategies that eliminate the duplication of interviews and use a question and answer interviewing format with questioning as nondirective as possible to elicit spontaneous responses. Members of this agency will be alert for victims who would be best served by the use of these specialized interview techniques. Officers, in making this determination, should consider the victim's age, level of maturity, communication skills, intellectual capacity, emotional state, and any other observable factors that would indicate specialized interview techniques would be appropriate for a particular victim. When an officer determines that a victim requires the use of these specialized interview techniques, the officer should follow the guidance below.

- (a) Officers responding to reports of sexual assaults involving these sensitive population groups shall limit their actions to the following:
 - 1. Ensuring the safety of the victim;
 - 2. Ensuring the scene is safe;
 - 3. Safeguarding evidence where appropriate;
 - 4. Collecting any information necessary to identify the suspect; and
 - 5. Addressing the immediate medical needs of individuals at the scene.
- (b) Initial responding officers should not attempt to interview the victim in these situations, but should instead attempt to obtain basic information and facts about the situation, including the jurisdiction where the incident occurred and that a crime most likely occurred. Officers should seek to obtain this information from parents, caregivers, the reporting party, or other adult witnesses, unless those individuals are believed to be the perpetrators.

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- (c) Officers responding to victims with special considerations must comply with the mandated reporting requirements of Minn. Stat. 260E.06, 260E.22, and 626.557, as applicable. Officers investigating cases involving victims with special considerations should coordinate these investigations with the appropriate local human services agency where required. Any victim or witness interviews conducted with individuals having special considerations must be audio and video recorded whenever possible. All other interviews must be audio recorded whenever possible. Not all sexual assaults of minor victims require a mandatory report to social services. This policy recognizes that in certain cases, notifying and/or the involvement of a parent/guardian can cause harm to the minor and/or impede the investigation. Officers responding to the sexual assault of a minor victim that does not trigger a mandated report under Minn. Stat. 626.556 should assess for the impact on the victim and the investigation if parents/guardians were notified before making a decision to involve them.
- (d) Officers should obtain necessary contact information for the victim's caregiver, guardian or parents and where the victim may be located at a later time. Officers should advise the victim and/or any accompanying adult(s), guardians or caregivers that an investigating officer will follow up with information on a forensic interview.
- (e) The officer should advise the victim's caregiver, guardian or parent that if the victim starts to talk about the incident they should listen to them but not question them as this may influence any future statements.
- (f) If a forensic interview with a child or mentally challenged adult is appropriate, contact the relevant agencies (i.e. Social Services, County Attorney's Office) and conduct an interview as soon as possible. The forensic interview should be conducted by a specially trained Investigator from the appropriate agency. This normally will be a Police Investigator, but depending upon the circumstances of a case, may also be a Child Protection or Adult Protection Worker. The forensic interview should be audio and video recorded.
- (g) Officers should not bring charges for underage consumption or other minor offenses against victims of sexual assault.

601.5.2 VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

Officers responding to a report of sexual assault committed against a family and household member must also follow the requirements and guidelines in this agency's domestic abuse policy and protocol, in addition to the guidelines in this policy.

601.5.3 PROTECTING VICTIM RIGHTS

Officers should explain to victims the limitations of confidentiality in a criminal investigation and that the victim's identifying information is not accessible to the public, as specified in Minn. Stat. §13.82, Subd. 17(b). Officers must provide the following information to the victim:

- (a) Crime victim rights and resource information required to be provided to all victims as specified by Minn. Stat. § 611A.02, Subd. 2(b).
- (b) If the suspect is a family or household member to the victim, crime victim rights and resource information required to be provided to domestic abuse victims, as specified by Minn. Stat. §629.341, Subd. 3.

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- (c) The victim's right to be informed of the status of a sexual assault examination kit upon request as provided for under Minn. Stat. § 611A.27, Subd. 1.
- (d) Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 611A.26, Subd. 1, no law enforcement agency or prosecutor shall require that a complainant of a criminal sexual conduct or sex trafficking offense submit to a polygraph examination as part of or a condition to proceeding with the investigation, charging or prosecution of such offense.

The Department shall ensure that the victim of a sexual assault who reports an incident is provided with a copy of the written summary of the allegation. If the incident occurred outside the jurisdiction of the Rochester Police Department, a copy of the written summary shall also be provided to the law enforcement agency where the incident occurred (Minn. Stat. § 609.3459).

601.5.4 SUSPECTS

Prior to contacting the suspect, officers should consider the following:

- (a) Conduct a background and criminal history check specifically looking for accusations, criminal charges, and convictions for interconnected crimes, especially crimes involving violence.
- (b) Consider conducting a pretext or confrontational call or messaging depending on jurisdictional statutes. Involvement of a victim should be based on strong consideration of the victim's emotional and physical state. A victim advocate should be present whenever possible to offer support.
- (c) When possible, an attempt should be made to interview the suspect in person.
- (d) In situations where suspects do not deny that a sexual act occurred, but rather assert that it was with the consent of the victim, officers should do the following:
 - 1. Collect evidence of past communication, including but not limited to all relevant interaction (including social media) between the suspect and victim.
 - 2. Identify events that transpired prior to, during, and after the assault in an effort to locate additional witnesses and physical locations that might lead to additional evidence.
- (e) For sexual assaults involving strangers, officers should focus investigative efforts on the collection of video, DNA, and other trace evidence used for analysis to identify the perpetrator (handle evidence collection per agency policy).

The forensic examination of a suspect and/or the collection of evidence may be done by either an investigating officer/investigator, Forensic Medical Examiner, or the agency Crime Scene Team personnel.

The following should be considered:

- (a) Prior to or immediately after the preliminary suspect interview, photograph any injuries.
- (b) Determine whether a sexual assault medical forensic examination should be conducted.
- (c) Ask for the suspect's consent to collect evidence from their body and clothing. However, officers/investigators should consider obtaining a search warrant, with

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specific details about what evidence will be collected, and should be prepared in advance to eliminate the opportunity for the suspect to destroy or alter evidence if consent is denied.

- (d) During the suspect's sexual assault medical forensic examination, the investigator, evidence technician, or forensic examiner should do the following:
 - 1. Strongly consider penile swabbing, pubic hair combings, and collection of other potential DNA evidence;
 - 2. Collect biological and trace evidence from the suspect's body;
 - 3. Document information about the suspect's clothing, appearance, scars, tattoos, piercings, and other identifiable marks;
 - 4. Seize all clothing worn by the suspect during the assault, particularly any clothing touching the genital area;
 - 5. Document the suspect's relevant medical condition and injuries.

601.6 COLLECTION AND TESTING OF BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Officers shall follow this agency's policy on crime scene response. In addition, officers may do the following:

- (a) Collect evidence regarding the environment in which the assault took place, including indications of isolation and soundproofing. The agency should consider utilizing their agency or state crime lab in obtaining or processing the scene where the assault took place. This should be in accordance to any/all other policies and procedures relating to evidence collections.
- (b) Document any evidence of threats or any communications made by the suspect, or made on behalf of the suspect, to include those made to individuals other than the victim.
- (c) In situations where it is suspected that drugs or alcohol may have facilitated the assault, officers should assess the scene for evidence such as drinking glasses, alcohol bottles or cans, or other related items.
- (d) The assigned Investigator is responsible for ensuring that the crime scene is properly processed and evidence collected. If no investigator has been assigned the case when the crime scene is processed a Patrol Supervisor is responsible for ensuring that the crime scene is properly processed and evidence collected.
- (e) If the victim has declined or a medical forensic exam will not be conducted, the officer should obtain victim consent and attempt to take photographs of visible physical injuries, including any healing or old injuries. Victim should be given directions about how to document any bruising or injury that becomes evidence later after these photographs are taken.

601.6.1 SEXUAL ASSAULT MEDICAL FORENSIC EXAMINATIONS

Prior to the sexual assault medical forensic examination the investigating officer should do the following:

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- (a) Ensure the victim understands the purpose of the sexual assault medical forensic exam and its importance to both their general health and wellness and to the investigation. Offer assurance to the victim that they will not incur any out-of-pocket expenses for forensic medical exams and provide information about evidence collection, storage and preservation in sexual assault cases.
- (b) Provide the victim with general information about the procedure, and encourage them to seek further detail and guidance from the forensic examiner, health care professional, or a victim advocate. Officers and investigators cannot deny a victim the opportunity to have an exam.
- (c) Officers should be aware and if necessary, relay to victims who do not want to undergo an exam that there might be additional treatments or medications they are entitled to even if they do not want to have an exam done or have evidence collected. Victims can seek that information from a health care provider or a victim advocate. If possible, transport or arrange transportation for the victim to the designated medical facility.
- (d) Ask the victim for a signed release for access to medical records from the exam.
- (e) If medical personnel indicate that a sexual assault evidentiary examination is not medically appropriate for a particular victim, that information should be documented in the Investigator's report.
- (f) Officers should not be present during any part of the exam, including during the medical history. Following the exam, evidence collected during the exam shall be handled according to the requirements of agency policy and Minnesota Statute 299C.106.

601.6.2 SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINATION (SANE) KIT HANDLING PROCEDURES

The law requires that there be effective collection, testing, and tracking of all Sexual Assault Nurse Examination Kits (hereinafter referred to as SANE Kits). The Special Victims Unit in coordination with the Records division is primarily responsible for the collection, testing, and tracking of all SANE Kits.

All unrestricted SANE kits that are recovered by the Rochester Police Department must be collected and sent to a forensic laboratory for testing. SANE kits that hospitals collect in cases involving a victim who does not want to involve the police will remain at the hospital.

The assigned investigator or other department employee designated to retrieve the unrestricted SANE kit, must do so as soon as reasonably possible and in compliance with the law. The SANE kit must be retrieved from the health care professional within ten days of receiving notice that the kit is available for transfer. The documentation of notice received and pickup must be documented to ensure compliance with Minnesota Statutes. Notification from the health care professional may be received in writing, by telephone, or by electronic communication.

The Investigative Division Captain in coordination with the Records Supervisor will establish procedures to ensure legal obligations for SANE kit handling are followed.

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As soon as reasonably possible and within 60 days of receiving an unrestricted sexual assault examination kit, the assigned investigator will submit the SANE kit for testing to a forensic laboratory. Restricted sexual assault examination kits shall not be submitted for testing.

Failure to meet a deadline established in this section is not a basis for dismissal or bar to the admissibility of the evidence in a criminal action.

601.6.3 VICTIM'S RIGHTS TO SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE INFORMATION

Upon written request from the victim or the victim's written designee for investigative data, the member investigating the sexual assault should release the following information if doing so would not interfere with the investigation (Minn. Stat. § 611A.27):

- (a) The date that a sexual assault examination kit was submitted to a forensic laboratory.
- (b) The date that the agency received notice of the results of that testing.
- (c) Whether a DNA profile was obtained from the testing.

The police department may refuse the request if the release of the data will interfere with the investigation. The department must respond to victim inquiries and requests within 30 days of receipt, unless the department declines to provide the information because it has determined the release of the data will interfere with the investigation.

A sexual assault victim can designate another person to request information on the victim's behalf by providing written authorization to the department except that the department can decline to provide the information if the release of the data will interfere with the investigation.

The Records Supervisor will be the representative assigned to respond to requests for data from sexual assault victims. The Records Supervisor will serve as the liaison between the department and the forensic laboratory.

A sexual assault victim may contact the Investigator assigned to the case, to request that a restricted kit be reclassified as an unrestricted kit, if the restricted kit is in the possession of the department. The request and process shall be documented.

601.7 CASE MANAGEMENT

Short of an active homicide investigation or the immediate need to take effective investigative/intervention measures to protect a person from imminent harm, sexual assault cases should be a priority in an investigator's case file. All cases that establish probable cause that a sexual assault occurred and that a specific person committed the sexual assault should be referred to the prosecutor for prosecution.

Case management responsibilities of supervisors should include the following:

- (a) Assist officers investigating incidents of sexual assault when possible or if requested by an officer.
- (b) Provide guidance and direction as needed.

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- (c) Review sexual assault reports to ensure that necessary steps were taken during the initial response and subsequent investigation.

601.8 CASE REVIEW

A supervisor should ensure cases are reviewed on an on-going basis. The review process should include an analysis of:

- (a) Case dispositions.
- (b) Decisions to collect biological evidence.
- (c) Submissions of biological evidence for lab testing.
- (d) Interviewing Decisions.

601.9 RELEASING INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC

In cases where the perpetrator is not known to the victim, and especially if there are multiple crimes where more than one appear to be related, consideration should be given to releasing information to the public whenever there is a reasonable likelihood that doing so may result in developing helpful investigative leads. The Investigative Division supervisor should weigh the risk of alerting the suspect to the investigation with the need to protect the victim and the public, and to prevent more crimes.

601.10 TRAINING

Subject to available resources, periodic training should be provided to:

- (a) Members who are first responders. Training should include:
 - 1. Initial response to sexual assaults.
 - 2. Legal issues.
 - 3. Victim advocacy.
 - 4. Victim's response to trauma.
- (b) Investigators assigned to Person Crimes, who should receive advanced training on additional topics. Advanced training should include:
 - 1. Interviewing sexual assault victims.
 - 2. Medical and legal aspects of sexual assault investigations.
 - 3. Serial crimes investigations.
 - 4. Use of community and other federal and state investigative resources, such as the Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (ViCAP).
 - 5. Techniques for communicating with victims to minimize trauma.