

North Carolina State Crime Laboratory Forensic Update



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Dear Criminal Justice Stakeholders,

This article is the inaugural edition of the **North Carolina State Crime Laboratory Forensic Update**. The purpose of these periodic articles is to present brief, but informative and relevant information concerning Crime Lab updates, new technology and forensic information that could be useful to our Criminal Justice Stakeholders.

The first Forensic Update is about the **Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits Audit**. This is to remind all law enforcement agencies about the **legislatively mandated requirement and deadline of January 1, 2018** to comply with Senate Bill 257 (Section 17.7 of the North Carolina Current Operations Appropriations Act of 2017.)

It is likely that the final report will receive significant news media coverage, especially for any law enforcement agency that fails to file the report by the deadline as required. We hope that no law enforcement agency will miss the deadline and be subject to adverse news media coverage.

“Truth through science so justice is served.”

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John A. Byrd'.

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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE COLLECT KITS (SAECKs)

If your agency has not already done so, please ensure that on or before **January 1, 2018** you have submitted to the North Carolina State Crime Laboratory an agency audit report of sexual assault evidence collection kits (SAECKs) including the following:

1. The total number of SAECKs in its custody or control that have not previously undergone forensic testing.
2. Of the total number of SAECKs in its custody or control, the number that:
 - a. Are anonymous. For purposes of this section, the term “anonymous” means the identity of the victim of sexual assault is not associated with the SAECK because the victim has not reported the assault to law enforcement.
 - b. Represent a case that has been resolved in court, whether by conviction, dismissal, or another manner.
 - c. Was not submitted for forensic testing because the suspect admitted to the sexual act in question
 - d. Was not submitted for forensic testing because the allegations were determined to be unfounded as a result of further investigation.

Submission of your report may be made by email to SAK@ncdoj.gov or by first class mail:

Forensic Biology Section
121 E. Tryon Road
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603

One additional important reminder:

The State Crime Laboratory currently has available funding for outsourced DNA testing of older untested SAECKs. The outsourced testing is on a first-come, first-served basis and at **zero cost** to your agency. For more information, please email the Forensic Biology Section at SAK@ncdoj.gov.

