



Designation: ~~E2123—16~~ E2123 – 20

Standard Practice for Transmittal~~Preservation~~ of Evidence in Sexual Assault~~Violence~~ Investigation¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E2123; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This practice describes the basic considerations that will help preserve different items or types of sexual ~~assault~~violence related evidence for subsequent analysis. This practice is designed to be used in conjunction with other specifications, guides, and practices associated with sexual ~~assault~~violence examinations that are listed in Section 2.

1.2 This ~~practice offers a set of instructions for performing one or more specific operations. This standard cannot replace knowledge, skill, skills, or ability~~abilities acquired through appropriate education, training, and experience (see Practice ~~E2917 and should~~, Education and Training) and is to be used in conjunction with ~~sound professional judgment~~professional judgement by individuals with such discipline-specific knowledge, skills, and abilities.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.4 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

- [E1459 Guide for Physical Evidence Labeling and Related Documentation](#)
- [E1492 Practice for Receiving, Documenting, Storing, and Retrieving Evidence in a Forensic Science Laboratory](#)
- [E1732 Terminology Relating to Forensic Science](#)
- [E1843 Guide for Sexual Violence Investigation, Examination, and Evidence Collection Protocol](#)
- [E2057 Specifications for Preparation of Laboratory Analysis Requests in Sexual Assault Investigations](#)
- [E2124 Specification for Equipment and Supplies in Sexual Violence Investigations](#)
- [E2917 Practice for Forensic Science Practitioner Training, Continuing Education, and Professional Development Programs](#)

2.2 Other Standards:

~~The Biological Evidence Preservation Handbook: Best Practices for Evidence Handlers~~ Ballou, S. M., et al., 2013

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E30 on Forensic Sciences and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E30.11 on Interdisciplinary Forensic Science Standards.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For Annual Book of ASTM Standards volume information, refer to the ~~standard~~standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of terms used in ~~these specifications~~ this practice, see Terminology [E1732](#) and the Compilation of ASTM Standard ~~Definitions (1990)~~. Definitions.

4. Summary of Practice

4.1 ~~Evidence~~ Treat evidence collected from the victim or suspect, other physical evidence from the crime scene, and investigative facts and medical conclusions associated with a sexual ~~assault examination~~ should be treated violence examination in a manner that will ensure their suitable preservation for presentation in legal proceedings.

4.2 All individuals associated with the investigation ~~should~~ shall be prepared to protect the evidence chain of custody and preserve what are often trace amounts of perishable biological materials, and other trace evidence such as hairs, fibers, lubricants, and particulate evidence that may not be visible to the unaided eye.

4.3 ~~These standard specifications are~~ This practice is to be used in conjunction with Guide [E1843](#) and ~~Specification~~ Specifications [E2057](#) and [E2124](#).

4.3.1 Additional information can be found in Practice [E1492](#).

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The procedures put forth in this standard are designed to preserve sexual ~~assault~~ violence evidence items during collection, storage, and transmittal for analysis at an appropriate laboratory.

6. Procedure

6.1 *Evidence Chain of Custody:*

6.1.1 The chain of custody in a sexual ~~assault~~ violence examination of a victim is ~~unique in that it may be difficult to control in the midst of administering to the~~ or suspect is unique due to the needs of an often mobile and traumatized individual.

6.1.2 An “examiner” or “investigator” in this usage ~~may~~ can be, but is not limited to, an emergency medical practitioner, social worker, nurse, physician, or law enforcement officer.

6.1.2.1 Each “examiner” or “investigator” ~~should~~ shall ensure that the chain of custody is continued for the transfer of the evidence to the next “investigator” in the process.

6.1.3 The basic requirements for the labeling and initiating a chain of custody of evidence items are described in Guide [E1459](#).

6.2 *Preservation of Evidence:*

6.2.1 All items of physical evidence collected in the investigation ~~should~~ shall be treated as though they are, or may contain, perishable biological materials until they can be examined by an appropriate forensic laboratory.

6.2.2 ~~Liquid blood samples should be collected and transported as required by the examining~~ Collect and transport blood samples according to requirements set forth by the forensic laboratory. Dried stains ~~may~~ can be transported at room ~~temperature~~. temperature and preserved according to published standards or laboratory protocols.

6.2.2.1 In some cases, more than one blood sample ~~may~~ can be required from an individual for a combination of serological (including DNA) and toxicological testing. The preservative or anticoagulant required in each sample ~~may~~ can be different, and the analyzing ~~laboratory’s~~ laboratory’s requirements for each sample ~~should~~ shall be followed.

6.2.3 ~~Blood~~ Seal all blood and urine obtained for toxicological examination, and other items, which must remain in liquid form ~~should be sealed in appropriate containers.~~ Glass in appropriate containers and refrigerate according to published standards or laboratory protocols. Never freeze glass vials or jars containing liquid body fluids such as blood and urine ~~should never be frozen as glass containers may break.~~ Other items of biological evidence should be air-dried at room temperature, packaged and sealed