



Standard Specifications for Preparation of Laboratory Analysis Requests in Sexual Assault Violence Investigations¹

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INTRODUCTION

The meaningful analysis of physical evidence recovered in sexual assault violence investigations requires ~~not only the~~ careful attention to the preservation of easily damaged or degraded biological materials ~~but also as well as~~ the transmittal of a clear description and explanation of that evidence for the examining ~~scientists/analysts/criminalists~~ analyst. This description should include the source of, and relationships between, different evidence items and is sometimes referred to as a “case synopsis.” The more information the analysts have at their disposal concerning the circumstances of the ~~assault incident~~ and the relationship(s) of the ~~victim(s) and suspect(s)~~, involved individuals, the more successful their efforts will be in resolving questions in the investigation. Failure to adequately document and report this information in the request for scientific analysis could lead to the application of useless tests of the evidence that ~~may can~~ destroy materials better used in other more meaningful examinations.

1. Scope

1.1 These specifications describe the basic elements of a request for the scientific examination of physical evidence collected in the investigation of a sexual ~~assault~~ violence incident. These specifications are 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 These specifications outline considerations that ~~will~~ facilitate the analysis of sexual ~~assault~~ violence evidence by a ~~potentially large group of~~ forensic experts. These experts can include, but are not limited to, serologists, toxicologists, pathologists, odontologists, latent print examiners, firearm and toolmark examiners, and trace materials analysts. The success of their combined work ~~generally~~ requires a clear understanding of the issues and relationships involved in the case.

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.*

¹ These specifications are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E30 on Forensic Sciences and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E30.11 on Interdisciplinary Forensic Science Standards.

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