



**Statutory Guide to
Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence (“SAFE”) Act of 2016**

**Office of the Attorney General
Office of Victims Advocacy**

The following resource provides a brief summary of the changes to Kentucky law pursuant to the Sexual Assault Forensic (“SAFE”) Act of 2016, as well as a copy of all relevant statutes, categorized by agency. For additional resources on sexual assault law, victim-centered investigations and prosecutions and victim advocacy for sexual assault survivors, please contact Gretchen Hunt, Director, Office of Victims Advocacy at 502-696-5320 or Gretchen.Hunt@ky.gov.

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Victims’ Rights in Hospital

KRS 216B.400 (10) - Victim has right to exam whether or not victim chooses to file a report.

A victim shall have a right to determine whether a report shall be made to law enforcement except where reporting of abuse and neglect of a child, spouse or other vulnerable adult is required by law. If the victim chooses to report to law enforcement, the hospital shall notify law enforcement within twenty-four (24) hours.

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All samples collected shall be stored for at least one (1) year from the date of collection.

Samples collected during exams where the victim chose not to report immediately or file a report within one (1) year after collection may be destroyed as set forth in applicable administrative regulation. The victim shall be informed of the destruction process at the time of the examination. No hospital, sexual assault examination facility, or designated storage facility shall be liable for destruction of samples after the required storage period has expired.

SANE Ready Hospitals

KRS 216B.401 (1) - Designation of “SANE ready” hospitals.

KRS 216B.401 (2) – Suspension or revocation of “SANE ready” designation for failure to meet requirements.

KRS 216B.401 (3)- - CHFS to maintain a list of SANE ready hospitals.

The secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) shall designate as a SANE-ready hospital any acute care hospital which has certified, and recertifies annually, that a sexual assault nurse examiner as defined in KRS 314.011 is available on call twenty-four (24) hours each day for the examination of persons seeking treatment as victims of sexual offenses. The secretary shall suspend or revoke an acute care hospital's designation as SANE-ready hospital if the hospital fails to recertify annually, or if it notifies the secretary that it no longer meets the requirements of this section.

The CHFS shall maintain a list of SANE-ready hospitals and post the list on its Web site. The cabinet shall provide the list and periodic updates to the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services. The Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services shall share the list with each local emergency medical services provider at least annually, and as new centers and hospitals are designated and certified.

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By policy, law enforcement agencies shall:

- take into custody, within five (5) days of notice from the collecting facility that the evidence is available for retrieval, any evidence collected as a result of an examination.
- transmit any evidence, received from a collecting facility relating to an incident which occurred outside the jurisdiction of the department, to a department with jurisdiction within ten (10) days of its receipt by the department;
- transmit to the Department of Kentucky State Police forensic laboratory within thirty (30) days of its receipt by the department all evidence retrieved from a collection facility.
- transmit a suspect standard, if available, to the Department of Kentucky State Police forensic laboratory with the evidence received from a collecting facility; and
- notify the victim from whom the evidence was collected of the progress of the testing, whether the testing resulted in a match to other DNA samples, and if the evidence is to be destroyed. The policy may include provisions for delaying notice until a suspect is apprehended or the office of the Commonwealth's attorney consents to the notification, but shall not automatically require the disclosure of the identity of any person to whom the evidence matched.

Failure to meet a deadline established in a policy for the retrieval or submission of evidence shall not be a basis for a dismissal of a criminal action or a bar to the admissibility of the evidence in a criminal action.

Protocol for Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence

KRS 15.440 (1)(i) - Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Protocol

By January 1, 2017 law enforcement agencies must be operating pursuant to a written policy and procedure manual, approved by the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, that includes the following:

- a requirement that evidence collected as a result of an examination be taken into custody within five (5) days of notice from the collecting facility that the evidence is available for retrieval;
- a requirement that evidence received from a collecting facility relating to an incident which occurred outside the jurisdiction of the department be transmitted to a department with jurisdiction within ten (10) days of its receipt by the department;
- a requirement that all evidence retrieved from a collecting facility transmitted to the Department of Kentucky State Police forensic laboratory within thirty (30) days of its receipt by the department;
- a requirement that a suspect standard, if available, be transmitted to the Department of Kentucky State Police forensic laboratory with the evidence received from a collecting facility; and

- a process for notifying the victim from whom the evidence was collected of the progress of the testing, whether the testing resulted in a match to other DNA samples, and if the evidence is to be destroyed. The policy may include provisions for delaying notice until a suspect is apprehended or the office of the Commonwealth's attorney consents to the notification, but shall not automatically require the disclosure of the identity of any person to whom the evidence matched.

Failure to meet a deadline established in a policy for the retrieval or submission of evidence shall not be a basis for a dismissal of a criminal action or a bar to the admissibility of the evidence in a criminal action.

Kentucky Law Enforcement Foundation Program

KRS 15.440- requirements to share in funds.

By January 1, 2017 law enforcement agencies must be operating pursuant to an approved policy and procedure manual, meeting the requirements above, in order to share in program funds.

Storage and Destruction of Evidence Subject to Testing

KRS 524.140 (2) (a) – Fifty Year Rule.

KRS 524.140 (2) (b) – Ten Year Rule (Requires additional determinations and motions).

No item of evidence gathered by law enforcement, prosecutorial, or defense authorities that may be subject to DNA evidence testing and analysis in order to confirm the guilt or innocence of a criminal defendant shall be disposed of prior to trial of a criminal defendant unless:

- The evidence has been in custody not less than fifty (50) years; **or**
- The evidence has been in custody not less than ten (10) years; **and**
 1. The prosecution has determined that the defendant will not be tried for the criminal offense; **and**
 2. The prosecution has made a motion, before the court in which the case would have been tried, to destroy the evidence.

Mandatory Training on Sexual Assault

KRS 15.334 (1) – KLEC to approve mandatory training for basic law enforcement training (8 hours).

KRS 15.334 (2) (c) – KLEC to approve mandatory professional development; number of officers in department required to be trained (40 hours).

Beginning January 1, 2017, the Kentucky Law Enforcement council (KLEC) shall require that a law enforcement *basic training course* include at least eight (8) hours of training relevant to sexual assault.

Beginning January 1, 2017, the KLEC shall establish a forty (40) hour sexual assault *investigation training course*. By January 1, 2019, agencies shall have one (1) or more officers trained in this curriculum, as follows:

- Agencies with five (5) or fewer officers shall have at least one (1) officer trained in sexual assault investigation;
- Agencies with more than five (5) officers but fewer than thirty (30) officers shall have at least two (2) officers trained in sexual assault investigation; and
- Agencies with thirty (30) or more officers shall have at least four (4) officers trained in sexual assault investigation.

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KRS 17.175 (4) – DNA profiles are confidential and not public records.

KRS 17.175 (7) – Destruction of un-entered DNA samples

Centralized Data Base and Timelines for Completion of Analysis

KRS 17.175 (3) (a) – A centralized data base of DNA records for convicted or adjudicated offenders; analysis and classification of sexual assault evidence collection kits.

KRS 17.175 (3) (b) – Reporting of average time for completion of analysis and classification of kits.

The Department of the Kentucky State Police forensic laboratory shall analyze and classify all sexual assault evidence collection kits it receives. Priority may be given to kits where a suspect has been identified and a reference standard is provided.

Timeline for completion of analysis:

- by July 1, 2018, the average completion rate for this analysis and classification shall not exceed ninety (90) days
- by July 1, 2020, the average completion rate for this analysis and classification shall not exceed sixty (60) days.

By August 1 of each year the Department of the Kentucky State Police shall report to the Legislative Research Commission the yearly average completion rate for the immediately preceding five (5) fiscal years.

Expungement of DNA Records

KRS 17.175 (5) - Expungement process of DNA profile

KRS 17.175 (8) - Penalties for Violation of dissemination or use of DNA identification system.

A person whose DNA profile is included in the data bank may request expungement on the grounds that the conviction or adjudication on which the authority for including the DNA profile was based has been reversed and the case dismissed, or that the person successfully completed the pretrial diversion program under KRS 533.258 and the charges were dismissed-diverted.

The Department of Kentucky State Police shall expunge all identifiable information in the data bank pertaining to the person and destroy all samples from the person upon receipt of a written request for expungement and either a certified copy of the court order reversing and dismissing the conviction or a certified copy of the court order deeming the charges dismissed-diverted.

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Collection of Data

KRS 16.132 (1) – KSP to collect statistical data regarding persons charged.

KRS 16.132 (2)- KSP to provide data results to SART Advisory Committee by May 1st of each calendar year, beginning May 1, 2018.

The Department of Kentucky State Police shall request from other law enforcement agencies and collect statistical data regarding:

- the reporting and investigation of any person charged with committing, attempting to commit, or complicity to a sexual offense as defined by KRS 510.040, 510.050, 510.060, 510.070, 510.080, 510.090, 510.110, 510.120, 510.130, 510.140, 530.020, 530.064(1)(a), and 531.310, and
- on the number of sexual assault evidence kits which are submitted to law enforcement agencies,
- the number of such kits submitted to the Department of Kentucky State Police forensic laboratory, and
- the number of kits tested.

The information collected pursuant to this section for the previous calendar year shall be provided by May 1, 2018, and by each May 1 thereafter to the Sexual Assault Response Team Advisory Committee.

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Duties of Administrative Office of the Courts

KRS 27A.305 – Collection of statistical data regarding prosecution, dismissal, conviction, or acquittal of sexual offenses

KRS 27A.305 (2) - AOC to provide results of data to the SART Advisory Committee as defined in KRS 403.707.

The Administrative Office of the Courts shall collect statistical data regarding the prosecution, dismissal, conviction, or acquittal of any person charged with committing, attempting to commit, or complicity to a sexual offense as defined by KRS 510.040, 510.050, 510.060, 510.070, 510.080, 510.090, 510.110, 510.120, 510.130, 510.140, 530.020, 530.064(1)(a), and 531.310.

The information collected for the previous calendar year shall be provided by May 1 of 2018 and by each May 1 thereafter to the Sexual Assault Response Team Advisory Committee.

F. SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SART-AC).....21

Membership

KRS 403.707 (3)- Required Sexual Assault Response Team Advisory Committee.

Membership expanded to include the Director of the Kentucky Association of Child Advocacy Centers.

Duties of SART-AC

KRS 403.707 (5)- Provide assistance for each regional rape crisis center in establishing regional sexual assault response teams (SARTs)

KRS 403.707 (5)- Develop model policies for law enforcement (victim centered, evidence based)

KRS 402.707 (5)- Report to General Assembly results of analysis of previously untested sexual assault examination kits

KRS 402.707 (5)- Report to General Assembly and Secretary of Justice and Public Safety Cabinet the number of sexual assault reported, number of kits submitted and tested, and number of charges and convictions obtained in sexual assault cases

The Sexual Assault Response Team Advisory Committee shall:

- develop model policies for law enforcement agencies related to handling sexual assault examination kits and investigating sexual assaults with a victim-centered, evidence-based approach;
- provide assistance to each regional rape crisis center, as designated by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, in establishing a regional sexual assault response teams
- by January 1, 2018, must report to the General Assembly on the results of the analysis of previously untested sexual assault examination kits submitted to the Department of Kentucky State Police forensic laboratory pursuant to Section 1 of this Act, including whether analysis of those kits led to the identification and prosecution of suspects and the cost to society of the offenses committed by the suspects identified;
- by July 1, 2018, and by each July 1 thereafter, report to the General Assembly and to the secretary of the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet on the number of sexual assaults reported, the number of sexual assault examination kits submitted to the Department of Kentucky State Police forensic laboratory, the number of kits tested, and the

number of charges filed and convictions obtained in sexual assault cases in the previous calendar year.

APPLICABLE STATUTES

A. HOSPITALS AND SAFE EXAMS

Duties of Hospitals

Victims' Rights in Hospital

Storage and Destruction of Kits by Hospital (Non-reporting Kits)

KRS 216B.400 Emergency care; examination services for victims of sexual offenses; examination expenses paid by Crime Victims' Compensation Board; reporting to law enforcement; examination samples as evidence

(1) Where a person has been determined to be in need of emergency care by any person with admitting authority, no such person shall be denied admission by reason only of his or her inability to pay for services to be rendered by the hospital.

(2) Every hospital of this state which offers emergency services shall provide that a physician, a sexual assault nurse examiner, who shall be a registered nurse licensed in the Commonwealth and credentialed by the Kentucky Board of Nursing as provided under KRS 314.142, or another qualified medical professional, as defined by administrative regulation promulgated by the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet in consultation with the Sexual Assault Response Team Advisory Committee as defined in KRS 403.707, is available on call twenty-four (24) hours each day for the examinations of persons seeking treatment as victims of sexual offenses as defined by KRS

510.040, 510.050, 510.060, 510.070, 510.080, 510.090, 510.110, 510.120, 510.130, 510.140, 530.020, 530.064(1)(a), and 531.310.

(3) An examination provided in accordance with this section of a victim of a sexual offense may be performed in a sexual assault examination facility as defined in KRS 216B.015. An examination under this section shall apply only to an examination of a victim.

(4) The physician, sexual assault nurse examiner, or other qualified medical professional, acting under a statewide medical forensic protocol which shall be developed by the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet in consultation with the Sexual Assault Response Team Advisory Committee as defined in KRS 403.707, and promulgated by the secretary of justice and public safety pursuant to KRS Chapter 13A shall, upon the request of any peace officer or prosecuting attorney, and with the consent of the victim, or upon the request of the victim, examine such person for the purposes of providing basic medical care relating to the incident and gathering samples that may be used as physical evidence. This examination shall include but not be limited to:

(a) Basic treatment and sample gathering services; and

(b) Laboratory tests, as appropriate.

(5) Each victim shall be informed of available services for treatment of sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy, and other medical and psychiatric problems. Pregnancy counseling shall not include abortion counseling or referral information.

(6) Each victim shall be informed of available crisis intervention or other mental health services provided by regional rape crisis centers providing services to victims of sexual assault.

(7) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a minor may consent to examination under this section. This consent is not subject to disaffirmance because of minority, and consent of the parents or guardians of the minor is not required for the examination.

(8) (a) The examinations provided in accordance with this section shall be paid for by the Crime Victims' Compensation Board at a rate to be determined by the administrative regulation promulgated by the board after consultation with the Sexual Assault Response Team Advisory Committee as defined in KRS 403.707.

(b) Upon receipt of a completed claim form supplied by the board and an itemized billing for a forensic sexual assault examination or related services that are within the scope of practice of the respective provider and were performed no more than twelve (12) months prior to submission of the form, the board shall reimburse the hospital or sexual assault examination facility, pharmacist, health department, physician, sexual assault nurse examiner, or other qualified medical professional as provided in administrative regulations promulgated by the board pursuant to KRS Chapter 13A. Reimbursement shall be made to an out-of-state nurse who is credentialed in the other state to provide sexual assault examinations, an out-of-state hospital, or an out-of-state physician if the sexual assault occurred in Kentucky.

(c) Independent investigation by the Crime Victims' Compensation Board shall not be required for payment of claims under this section; however, the board may require additional documentation or proof that the forensic medical examination was performed.

(9) No charge shall be made to the victim for sexual assault examinations by the hospital, the sexual assault examination facility, the physician, the pharmacist, the health department, the sexual assault nurse examiner, other qualified medical professional, the victim's insurance carrier, or the Commonwealth.

(10) (a) Each victim shall have the right to determine whether a report or other notification shall be made to law enforcement, except where reporting of abuse and neglect of a child, spouse, and other vulnerable adult is required, as set forth in KRS 209.030, 209A.030, and 620.030. No victim shall be denied an examination because the victim chooses not to file a police report, cooperate with law enforcement, or otherwise participate in the criminal justice system.

(b) If the victim chooses to report to law enforcement, the hospital shall notify law enforcement within twenty-four (24) hours.

(c) 1. All samples collected during an exam where the victim has chosen not to immediately report to law enforcement shall be stored, released, and destroyed, if appropriate, in accordance with an administrative regulation promulgated by the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet in consultation with the Sexual Assault Response Team Advisory Committee as defined in KRS 403.707.

2. Facilities collecting samples pursuant to this section may provide the required secure storage, sample destruction, and related activities, or may enter into agreements with other agencies qualified to do so, pursuant to administrative regulation.

3. All samples collected pursuant to this section shall be stored for at least one (1) year from the date of collection in accordance with the administrative regulation promulgated pursuant to this subsection.

4. Notwithstanding KRS 524.140, samples collected during exams where the victim chose not to report immediately or file a report within one (1) year after collection may be destroyed as set

forth in accordance with the administrative regulation promulgated pursuant to this subsection. The victim shall be informed of this process at the time of the examination. No hospital, sexual assault examination facility, or designated storage facility shall be liable for destruction of samples after the required storage period has expired.

Legislative Research Commission Note (4-8-16): 2016 Ky. Acts ch. 58, sec. 1 states: "All sexual assault examination kits collected pursuant to KRS 216B.400 prior to the effective date of this Act (April 8, 2016) which have not been subjected to serological or deoxyribonucleic acid testing shall be submitted to the Department of Kentucky State Police forensic laboratory by January 1, 2017. The Department of Kentucky State Police forensic laboratory shall collaborate with every Kentucky law enforcement and prosecutorial agency responsible for the collection, storage, and maintenance of sexual assault examination kits to develop a plan for the submission and testing of all such kits."

Legislative Research Commission Note (4-8-16): 2016 Ky. Acts ch. 58, sec. 11 provided that that Act shall be known as the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence (SAFE) Act of 2016. This statute was amended in Section 4 of that Act.

SANE Ready Hospitals

KRS 216B.401 Designation of SANE-ready hospitals

(1) The secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall designate as a SANE-ready hospital any acute care hospital which has certified, and recertifies annually, that a sexual assault nurse examiner as defined in KRS 314.011 is available on call twenty-four (24) hours each day for the examination of persons seeking treatment as victims of sexual offenses as defined by KRS

510.040, 510.050, 510.060, 510.070, 510.080, 510.090, 510.110, 510.120, 510.130, 510.140, 530.020, 530.064(1)(a), and 531.310.

(2) The secretary shall suspend or revoke an acute care hospital's designation as a SANE-ready hospital if the hospital fails to recertify annually, or if it notifies the secretary that it no longer meets the requirements of this section.

(3) (a) The cabinet shall maintain a list of SANE-ready hospitals and post the list on its Web site. The cabinet shall provide the list and periodic updates to the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services.

(b) The Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services shall share the list with each local emergency medical services provider at least annually, and as new centers and hospitals are designated and certified.

B. LAW ENFORCEMENT

Duties of Law Enforcement

Protocol for Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence

Eligibility for Kentucky Law Enforcement Foundation Program

KRS 15.440 Requirements for participation in fund distribution.

(1) Each local unit of government which meets the following requirements shall be eligible to share in the distribution of funds from the Law Enforcement Foundation Program fund:

(a) Employs one (1) or more police officers;

(b) Pays every police officer at least the minimum federal wage;

(c) Maintains the minimum educational requirement of a high school degree, or its equivalent as determined by the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council, for employment of police officers on or after July 1, 1972, and for all sheriffs appointed or elected on or after July 15, 1998, and all deputy sheriffs, and state or public university police officers employed after July 15, 1998; provided, however, that all police officers employed prior to July 1, 1972, shall be deemed to have met the requirements of this subsection, and that all sheriffs serving in office on July 15, 1998, all deputy sheriffs, and state or public university police, employed prior to July 15, 1998, shall be deemed to have met the requirements of this subsection;

(d) 1. Requires all police officers employed on or after July 1, 1972, and all sheriffs appointed or elected on or after July 15, 1998, and deputy sheriffs, and state or public university police officers employed on or after January 1, 1998, to successfully complete a basic training course of nine hundred twenty-eight (928) hours' duration within one (1) year of the date of employment at a school certified or recognized by the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council, which may provide a different number of hours of instruction as established in this paragraph. All sheriffs serving in office on July 15, 1998, all deputy sheriffs, and state or public university police, employed prior to January 1, 1998, shall be deemed to have met the requirements of this subsection.

2. As the exclusive method by which the number of hours required for basic training courses shall be modified from that which is specifically established by this paragraph, the council may, by the promulgation of administrative regulations in accordance with the provisions of KRS Chapter 13A, explicitly set the exact number of hours for basic training at a number different from nine hundred twenty-eight (928) hours based upon a training curriculum approved by the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council as determined by a validated job task analysis.

3. If the council sets an exact number of hours different from nine hundred twenty-eight (928) in an administrative regulation as set out in this paragraph, it shall not further change the number of hours required for basic training without promulgating administrative regulations in accordance with the provisions of KRS Chapter 13A.

4. Nothing in this paragraph shall be interpreted to prevent the council pursuant to its authority under KRS 15.330 from approving training schools with a curriculum requiring attendance of a

number of hours that exceeds nine hundred twenty-eight (928) hours or the number of hours established in an administrative regulation set out by subparagraphs 2. and 3. of this paragraph. However, the training programs and schools for the basic training of law enforcement personnel conducted by the department pursuant to KRS 15A.070 shall not contain a curriculum that requires attendance of a number of hours for basic training that is different from nine hundred twenty-eight (928) hours or the number of hours established in an administrative regulation promulgated by the council pursuant to the provisions of KRS Chapter 13A as set out by subparagraphs 2. and 3. of this paragraph;

(e) Requires all police officers, whether originally employed before or after July 1, 1972, and all sheriffs appointed or elected before, on, or after July 15, 1998, and all deputy sheriffs and state or public police officers employed before, on, or after July 15, 1998, to successfully complete each calendar year an in-service training course, appropriate to the officer's rank and responsibility and the size and location of his department, of forty (40) hours' duration, of which the number of hours shall not be changed by the council, at a school certified or recognized by the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council. This requirement shall be waived for the period of time that a peace officer is serving on active duty in the United States Armed Forces. This waiver shall be retroactive for peace officers from the date of September 11, 2001;

(f) Requires compliance with all provisions of law applicable to local police, state or public university police, or sheriffs and their deputies, including transmission of data to the centralized criminal history record information system as required by KRS 17.150;

(g) Requires compliance with all reasonable rules and regulations, appropriate to the size and location of the local police department, state or public university police department, or sheriff's office, issued by the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet to facilitate the administration of the fund and further the purposes of KRS 15.410 to 15.510;

(h) Possesses a written policy and procedures manual related to domestic violence for law enforcement agencies that meets the standards set forth by, and has been approved by, the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet. The policy shall comply with the provisions of KRS 403.715 to 403.785. The policy shall include purpose statements; definitions; supervisory responsibilities; procedures for twenty-four (24) hour access to protective orders; procedures for enforcement of court orders or relief when protective orders are violated; procedures for timely and contemporaneous reporting of adult abuse and domestic violence to the Cabinet for Families and Children, Department for Community Based Services; victim rights, assistance, and service responsibilities; and duties related to timely completion of records; and

(i) Possesses by January 1, 2017, a written policy and procedures manual related to sexual assault examinations that meets the standards set forth by, and has been approved by, the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, and which includes:

1. A requirement that evidence collected as a result of an examination performed under KRS 216B.400 be taken into custody within five (5) days of notice from the collecting facility that the evidence is available for retrieval;
 2. A requirement that evidence received from a collecting facility relating to an incident which occurred outside the jurisdiction of the department be transmitted to a department with jurisdiction within ten (10) days of its receipt by the department;
 3. A requirement that all evidence retrieved from a collecting facility under this paragraph be transmitted to the Department of Kentucky State Police forensic laboratory within thirty (30) days of its receipt by the department;
 4. A requirement that a suspect standard, if available, be transmitted to the Department of Kentucky State Police forensic laboratory with the evidence received from a collecting facility; and
 5. A process for notifying the victim from whom the evidence was collected of the progress of the testing, whether the testing resulted in a match to other DNA samples, and if the evidence is to be destroyed. The policy may include provisions for delaying notice until a suspect is apprehended or the office of the Commonwealth's attorney consents to the notification, but shall not automatically require the disclosure of the identity of any person to whom the evidence matched.
- (2) No local unit of government which meets the criteria of this section shall be eligible to continue sharing in the distribution of funds from the Law Enforcement Foundation Program fund unless the local police department, state or public university police department, or sheriff's office actually begins and continues to comply with the requirements of this section; provided, further, that no local unit shall be eligible to share in the distribution of funds from the Law Enforcement Foundation Program fund until the local police department, state or public university police department, or sheriff's office has substantially complied with subsection (1)(f) and (g) of this section.
- (3) A sheriff's office shall not lose eligibility to share in the distribution of funds from the Law Enforcement Foundation Program fund if the sheriff does not participate in the Law Enforcement Foundation Program fund.
- (4) Failure to meet a deadline established in a policy adopted pursuant to subsection (1)(i) of this section for the retrieval or submission of evidence shall not be a basis for a dismissal of a criminal action or a bar to the admissibility of the evidence in a criminal action.

Storage and Destruction of Evidence Subject to Testing

KRS 524.140 Disposal of evidence that may be subject to DNA testing; motion to destroy; liability for destruction; penalty; retention of biological material

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Defendant" means a person charged with a:

1. Capital offense, Class A felony, Class B felony, or Class C felony; or
2. Class D felony under KRS Chapter 510; and

(b) "Following trial" means after:

1. The first appeal authorized by the Constitution of Kentucky in a criminal case has been decided; or
2. The time for the first appeal authorized by the Constitution of Kentucky in a criminal case has lapsed without an appeal having been filed.

(2) No item of evidence gathered by law enforcement, prosecutorial, or defense authorities that may be subject to deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) evidence testing and analysis in order to confirm the guilt or innocence of a criminal defendant shall be disposed of prior to trial of a criminal defendant unless:

(a) The evidence has been in custody not less than fifty (50) years; or

(b) The evidence has been in custody not less than ten (10) years; and

1. The prosecution has determined that the defendant will not be tried for the criminal offense; and
2. The prosecution has made a motion, before the court in which the case would have been tried, to destroy the evidence.

(3) No item of evidence gathered by law enforcement, prosecutorial, or defense authorities that may be subject to deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) evidence testing and analysis in order to confirm the guilt or innocence of a criminal defendant shall be disposed of following the trial unless:

(a) The evidence, together with DNA evidence testing and analysis results, has been presented at the trial, and the defendant has been found guilty, pled guilty, or entered an Alford plea at the trial;

(b) The evidence was not introduced at the trial, or if introduced at the trial was not the subject of DNA testing and analysis, and the defendant has been found guilty, pled guilty, or entered an Alford plea at the trial, and the trial court has ordered the destruction of the evidence after an adversarial hearing conducted upon motion of either the prosecution or the defendant;

(c) The trial resulted in the defendant being found not guilty or the charges were dismissed after jeopardy attached, whether or not the evidence was introduced at the trial or was subject to DNA testing and analysis or not, and the trial court ordered the destruction of the evidence after an adversarial hearing conducted upon motion of either the prosecution or the defendant;

or

(d) The trial resulted in the dismissal of charges against the defendant, and the defendant may be subject to retrial, in which event the evidence shall be retained until after the retrial, which shall be considered a new trial for the purposes of this section.

(4) The burden of proof for a motion to destroy evidence that may be subject to DNA testing and analysis shall be upon the party making the motion, and the court may permit the destruction of the evidence under this section upon good cause shown favoring its destruction.

(5) It is recognized by the General Assembly that the DNA evidence laboratory testing and analysis procedure consumes and destroys a portion of the evidence or may destroy all of the evidence if the sample is small. The consuming and destruction of evidence during the laboratory analysis process shall not result in liability for its consumption or destruction if the following conditions are met:

(a) The Department of Kentucky State Police laboratory uses a method of testing and analysis which preserves as much of the biological material or other evidence tested and analyzed as is reasonably possible; or

(b) If the Department of Kentucky State Police laboratory knows or reasonably believes that the entire sample of evidence to be tested and analyzed that the laboratory, prior to the testing or analysis of the evidence, notifies in writing the court which ordered the testing and analysis and counsel for all parties:

1. That the entire sample of evidence may be destroyed by the testing and analysis;
2. The possibility that another laboratory may be able to perform the testing and analysis in a less destructive manner with at least equal results;
3. The name of the laboratory capable of performing the testing and analysis, the costs of testing and analysis, the advantages of sending the material to that other laboratory, and the amount of biological material or other evidence which might be saved by alternative testing and analysis; and
4. The Department of Kentucky State Police laboratory follows the directive of the court with regard to the testing and analysis; or

(c) If the Department of Kentucky State Police laboratory knows or reasonably believes that so much of the biological material or evidence may be consumed or destroyed in the testing and analysis that an insufficient sample will remain for independent testing and analysis that the laboratory follows the procedure specified in paragraph (b) of this subsection.

(6) Destruction of evidence in violation of this section shall be a violation of [KRS 524.100](#).

(7) Subject to [KRS 422.285\(9\)](#), the appropriate governmental entity shall retain any biological material secured in connection with a criminal case for the period of time that any person remains incarcerated in connection with that case. The governmental entity shall have the discretion to determine how the evidence is retained pursuant to this section, provided that the evidence is retained in a condition suitable for DNA testing and analysis.

Mandatory Training on Sexual Assault

KRS 15.334 Mandatory training courses for law enforcement students and certified peace officers; administrative regulations; annual report

(1) The Kentucky Law Enforcement Council shall approve mandatory training subjects to be taught to all students attending a law enforcement basic training course that include but are not limited to:

(a) Abuse, neglect, and exploitation of the elderly and other crimes against the elderly, including the use of multidisciplinary teams in the investigation and prosecution of crimes against the elderly;

(b) The dynamics of domestic violence, pediatric abusive head trauma, as defined in KRS 620.020, child physical and sexual abuse, and rape; child development; the effects of abuse and crime on adult and child victims, including the impact of abuse and violence on child development; legal remedies for protection; lethality and risk issues; profiles of offenders and offender treatment; model protocols for addressing domestic violence, rape, pediatric abusive head trauma, as defined in KRS 620.020, and child abuse; available community resources and victim services; and reporting requirements. This training shall be developed in consultation with legal, victim services, victim advocacy, and mental health professionals with expertise in domestic violence, child abuse, and rape. Training in recognizing pediatric abusive head trauma may be designed in collaboration with organizations and agencies that specialize in the prevention and recognition of pediatric abusive head trauma approved by the secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services;

(c) Human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immunodeficiency virus syndrome;

(d) Identification and investigation of, responding to, and reporting bias-related crime, victimization, or intimidation that is a result of or reasonably related to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin;

(e) The characteristics and dynamics of human trafficking, state and federal laws relating to human trafficking, the investigation of cases involving human trafficking, including but not limited to screening for human trafficking, and resources for assistance to the victims of human trafficking; and

(f) Beginning January 1, 2017, the council shall require that a law enforcement basic training course include at least eight (8) hours of training relevant to sexual assault.

(2) (a) The council shall develop and approve mandatory professional development training courses to be presented to all certified peace officers. A mandatory professional development training course shall be first taken by a certified peace officer in the training year following its approval by the council and biennially thereafter. A certified peace officer shall be required to take these courses no more than two (2) times in eight (8) years.

(b) Beginning January 1, 2011, the council shall require that one and one-half (1.5) hours of professional development covering the recognition and prevention of pediatric abusive head trauma be included in the curriculum of all mandatory professional development training courses such that all officers shall receive this training at least once by December 31, 2013. The one and one-half (1.5) hours required under this section shall be included in the current number of required continuing education hours.

(c) Beginning January 1, 2017, the council shall establish a forty (40) hour sexual assault investigation training course. By January 1, 2019, agencies shall have one (1) or more officers trained in this curriculum, as follows:

1. Agencies with five (5) or fewer officers shall have at least one (1) officer trained in sexual assault investigation;
2. Agencies with more than five (5) officers but fewer than thirty (30) officers shall have at least two (2) officers trained in sexual assault investigation; and
3. Agencies with thirty (30) or more officers shall have at least four (4) officers trained in sexual assault investigation.

(3) The Justice and Public Safety Cabinet shall provide training on the subjects of domestic violence and abuse and may do so utilizing currently available technology. All certified peace officers shall be required to complete this training at least once every two (2) years.

(4) The council shall promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A to establish mandatory basic training and professional development training courses.

(5) The council shall make an annual report by December 31 each year to the Legislative Research Commission that details the subjects and content of mandatory professional development training courses established during the past year and the subjects under consideration for future mandatory training.

C. KENTUCKY STATE POLICE FORENSIC LABORATORY

Duties of Forensic Laboratory

Centralized Database and Timelines for Completion of Testing

Expungement of DNA Profile

KRS 17.175 Centralized database for DNA identification records; analysis and classification of evidence; exemption from KRS 61.870 to 61.884; expungement of information and destruction of DNA sample; penalty for unlawful use of DNA database identification system

(1) A centralized database of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) identification records for convicted or adjudicated offenders, crime scene specimens, unidentified human remains, missing persons, and close biological relatives of missing persons shall be established in the Department of Kentucky State Police under the direction, control, and supervision of the Department of Kentucky State Police forensic laboratory. The established system shall be compatible with the procedures set forth in a national DNA identification index to ensure data exchange on a national level.

(2) The purpose of the centralized DNA database is to assist federal, state, and local criminal justice and law enforcement agencies within and outside the Commonwealth in the identification, detection, or exclusion of individuals who are subjects of the investigation or prosecution of sex-related crimes, violent crimes, or other crimes and the identification and location of missing and unidentified persons.

(3) (a) The Department of Kentucky State Police forensic laboratory shall receive, analyze, and classify DNA samples received from the Department of Corrections, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and other sources, and shall file the DNA results in the centralized databases for law enforcement identification and statistical purposes. The department shall analyze and classify all sexual assault evidence collection kits it receives. In cases where a suspect has been identified, the department may give priority to analysis and classification of sexual assault evidence collection kits where the reference standard for comparison is provided with the kit. Except as provided in paragraph (e) of this subsection, by July 1, 2018, the average completion rate for this analysis and classification shall not exceed ninety (90) days, and by July 1, 2020, the average completion rate for this analysis and classification shall not exceed sixty (60) days.

(b) Failure to meet the completion time goals established in paragraph (a) of this subsection shall not be a basis for a dismissal of a criminal action or a bar to the admissibility of evidence.

(c) The Department of Kentucky State Police shall, by August 1 of each year, report to the Legislative Research Commission the yearly average completion rate for the immediately preceding five (5) fiscal years.

(d) With approval by the secretary of the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet in situations in which an equipment casualty necessitates the expedited acquisition or repair of laboratory equipment required for the analysis of evidence, the acquisition or repair shall be exempt from the Finance and Administration Cabinet's competitive bidding process for both acquisition and repair purposes. Each time the authority granted by this paragraph is used, the equipment acquisition or repair shall be fully documented within thirty (30) days by the agency head in a written or electronic letter to the secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet, attached to an ordering or payment document in the state's procurement system, which shall include:

1. An explanation of the equipment acquired or repaired;
2. The name of the vendor selected;
3. The amount of procurement;
4. Other price quotations obtained; and
5. The basis for selection of the vendor.

(e) To the extent appropriated funds are insufficient to meet the average completion time goals established in paragraph (a) of this subsection, the Department of Kentucky State Police forensic laboratory shall no longer be required to meet the average completion time goals.

(4) DNA identification records produced from the samples are not public records but shall be confidential and used only for law enforcement purposes. DNA identification records shall be exempt from the provisions of KRS 61.870 to 61.884.

(5) A person whose DNA profile has been included in the data bank pursuant to this chapter may request expungement on the grounds that the conviction or adjudication on which the authority for including the DNA profile was based has been reversed and the case dismissed, or that the person successfully completed the pretrial diversion program under KRS 533.258 and the charges were dismissed-diverted. The Department of Kentucky State Police shall expunge all identifiable information in the data bank pertaining to the person and destroy all samples from the person upon receipt of:

(a) A written request for expungement pursuant to this section; and

(b) Either:

1. A certified copy of the court order reversing and dismissing the conviction or adjudication; or

2. A certified copy of the court order deeming the charges dismissed-diverted.
- (6) The cabinet shall promulgate administrative regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of the DNA database identification system to include procedures for collection of DNA samples and the database system usage and integrity.
- (7) The Department of Kentucky State Police shall destroy all DNA samples that are not entered into the DNA database identification system.
- (8) Any person who disseminates, receives, or otherwise uses or attempts to use information in the DNA database identification system, knowing that such dissemination, receipt, or use is for a purpose other than authorized by this section, shall be guilty of a Class D felony.

D. KENTUCKY STATE POLICE

Collection and Reporting of Data on Sexual Offenses and Evidence

KRS 16.132 Collection of statistical data concerning sexual offenses and sexual assault evidence kits

- (1) The Department of Kentucky State Police shall request from other law enforcement agencies, pursuant to KRS 17.150, and shall collect statistical data regarding the reporting and investigation of any person charged with committing, attempting to commit, or complicity to a sexual offense as defined by KRS 510.040, 510.050, 510.060, 510.070, 510.080, 510.090, 510.110, 510.120, 510.130, 510.140, 530.020, 530.064(1)(a), and 531.310, and on the number of sexual assault evidence kits, as defined in KRS 216B.400, which are submitted to law enforcement agencies, the number of such kits submitted to the Department of Kentucky State Police forensic laboratory, and the number of kits tested.
- (2) The information collected pursuant to this section for the previous calendar year shall be provided by May 1, 2018, and by each May 1 thereafter to the Sexual Assault Response Team Advisory Committee as defined in KRS 403.707.

E. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Duties of the Administrative Office of the Courts

KRS 27A.305 Collection of statistical data concerning sexual offenses

- (1) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall collect statistical data regarding the prosecution, dismissal, conviction, or acquittal of any person charged with committing, attempting to commit, or complicity to a sexual offense as defined by KRS 510.040, 510.050, 510.060, 510.070, 510.080, 510.090, 510.110, 510.120, 510.130, 510.140, 530.020, 530.064(1)(a), and 531.310.
- (2) The information collected pursuant to this section for the previous calendar year shall be provided by May 1 of 2018 and by each May 1 thereafter to the Sexual Assault Response Team Advisory Committee as defined in KRS 403.707.

F. SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SART-AC)

Membership

Duties of SART-AC

KRS 403.707 Sexual Assault Response Team Advisory Committee; co-chairs; membership; duties

(1) The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault shall create a Sexual Assault Response Team Advisory Committee.

(2) The Sexual Assault Response Team Advisory Committee shall be co-chaired by the executive director of the Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs and the commissioner of the Department of Kentucky State Police or the commissioner's designee.

(3) The membership of the Sexual Assault Response Team Advisory Committee shall consist of the following:

(a) The executive director of the Kentucky Board of Nursing or the executive director's designee;

(b) The executive director of the Kentucky Nurses Association or the executive director's designee;

(c) The executive director of the Kentucky Hospital Association or the executive director's designee;

(d) The executive director of the Kentucky Association of Children's Advocacy Centers;

(e) The director of the Department of Kentucky State Police Crime Lab;

(f) The chief medical examiner or the chief medical examiner's designee;

(g) The commissioner of the Department for Community Based Services or the commissioner's designee;

(h) The director of the Victims' Advocacy Division of the Office of the Attorney General or the director's designee;

(i) A sexual assault nurse examiner serving on the Governor's Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault;

(j) A representative from a sexual assault response team serving on the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault;

(k) A physician appointed by the co-chairs of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; and

(l) A Commonwealth's attorney or an assistant Commonwealth's attorney appointed by the co-chairs of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

(4) Members appointed under subsection (3)(i) to (l) of this section shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority and shall not serve longer than four (4) years without reappointment.

(5) The Sexual Assault Response Team Advisory Committee shall:

(a) Serve in an advisory capacity to the Kentucky Board of Nursing in accomplishing the duties set forth under KRS 314.142;

(b) Serve in an advisory capacity to the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet in the development of the statewide sexual assault protocol required under KRS 216B.400(4);

- (c) Develop a model protocol for the operation of sexual assault response teams which shall include the roles of sexual assault nurse examiners, physicians, law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim advocates;
- (d) Provide assistance to each regional rape crisis center, as designated by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, in establishing a regional sexual assault response team;
- (e) Develop model policies for law enforcement agencies related to handling sexual assault examination kits and investigating sexual assaults with a victim-centered, evidence-based approach;
- (f) By January 1, 2018, report to the General Assembly on the results of the analysis of previously untested sexual assault examination kits submitted to the Department of Kentucky State Police forensic laboratory pursuant to 2016 Ky. Acts ch. 58, sec. 1, including whether analysis of those kits led to the identification and prosecution of suspects and the cost to society of the offenses committed by the suspects identified;
- (g) By July 1, 2018, and by each July 1 thereafter, report to the General Assembly and to the secretary of the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet on the number of sexual assaults reported, the number of sexual assault examination kits submitted to the Department of Kentucky State Police forensic laboratory, the number of kits tested, and the number of charges filed and convictions obtained in sexual assault cases in the previous calendar year;
- (h) Provide information and recommendations concerning the activities of the agency or organization represented by each individual committee member as related to sexual assault issues and programs within the purview of the agency or organization; and
- (i) Recommend to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault any changes in statute, administrative regulation, training, policy, and budget to promote a multidisciplinary response to sexual assault.