

Kit Transportation

SART Listserv

May 2007

Background: I am looking for information about how forensic evidence kits are transported from exam sites to crime labs for analysis. Does local law enforcement pick them up? Do you use a lab delivery service? FedEx?

California (Sacramento)

- In Sacramento, law enforcement picks them up and delivers them to the crime lab.

Florida (Pinellas County)

- We do not release to anyone other than a sworn law enforcement official in Pinellas County Florida.
- We are a free standing exam site (not hospital based) so law enforcement is generally always with us at the exam site.
- If they are out investigating they will leave evidence with me for a few hours, but I don't like to do that because it puts me in the chain of custody of evidence and I don't want to jeopardize the case in anyway.

Indiana (Indianapolis)

- Crime Lab picks them up from areas hospitals each Monday.
- The outlying counties often send officers to pick them up. If that fails, the forensic examiner transports them or uses Federal Express. Our State Police Lab confirmed that the chain of custody issue is in the sealing and unsealing of the kit - there could be 300 people that handle that kit in between but as long as that seal is in place those 300 people are irrelevant to the case and have no bearing on chain of custody. J
- We just passed legislation in Indiana that as of July 1, 2007 that mandates law enforcement have 48 hours to pick up the kit once they have been notified. I am not sure how it will be enforced, but at least now, we will have some leverage for law enforcement to pick them up. Here is a link to House Bill 1654.

<http://www.in.gov/apps/lisa/session/billwatch/billinfo?year=2007&session=1&request=getBill&docno=1654>

Michigan

- The investigating law enforcement agency is responsible for pick-up and transport to the lab.

Texas

- They are released to Law Enforcement; forensic exam sites never store or keep.
- If law enforcement is not present during the exam, have a 20 to 40 minute wait for them after a call to ask them to pick up. (I have been here as long as 3 1/2 hours waiting for a pick up).

Wisconsin

- Law enforcement both hand delivers or federal expresses the kits to the crime lab.
- Wisconsin is a large state and there are only two crime labs (both located in the southern part of the state) that process the kits.