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18th Judicial District of Kansas



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For Immediate Release, July 17, 2015

WICHITA, KAN. – There has been a national discussion regarding sexual assault kit (SAK) testing and whether every SAK should be tested. Locally, we regularly evaluate our practices to ensure best practices are followed based on changes in technology, changes in state law, etc. For instance, laws mandating the collection of DNA samples from convicted felons and those arrested and for certain offenses. Our goal is to ensure we work with our partners to maintain and, where necessary, enhance consistent practices.

Cases involving sexual assault are reviewed based on the totality of the circumstances and all the evidence gathered. The SAK is just one piece of the evidence gathered in these cases. In addition to swabs collected for possible DNA analysis, the SAK also contains other valuable information that is regularly evaluated – including medical history, details of injury, photographs, etc. utilized to prepare a case for prosecutorial review.

During the course of the investigation regarding sexual assaults, investigators from EMCU, the Wichita Police Department, the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office and other local agencies work in collaboration with the District Attorney's Office, the Sedgwick County Regional Forensic Science Center, and medical professionals in the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner/Sexual Assault Response Team (SANE/SART) program.

There is a long standing tradition of collaboration with other community partners, including the Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center (WASAC), the Sedgwick County Child Advocacy Center, community shelters, and others to utilize a multi-disciplinary response for the victims of these cases.

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