

Frequently Asked Questions

Who should contact the Information Line?

Any survivor of a sexual assault who completed a forensic exam and is interested in the status of their sexual assault kit. Survivors may also use the information line to make specific requests about the notification process.

What can I expect?

The Advocate will respond to all phone calls and emails. The Advocate may ask for case numbers, original law enforcement agencies involved, etc. While case numbers are helpful, it is not required to track down your kit. The Advocate will listen and answer questions and address concerns. The Advocate will assist in creating safety and privacy plans. *Please Note: The Advocate may need to contact the agencies involved in your case and cannot guarantee confidentiality.*

When can I call or email the Information line?

The Advocate's Hours are Monday-Thursday 7:00am-5:30pm. If you contact the Information Line after hours, please leave a message with your contact information and safe times to call. Your phone call will be returned the next business day, unless otherwise requested.

Resources:

Sexual Assault Hotline

801-356-2511

Center for Women and Children in Crisis for Sexual Assault Services

801-227-5038 x471

Utah Suicide Crisis Line

801-587-3000

Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault (UCASA)

801-746-0404

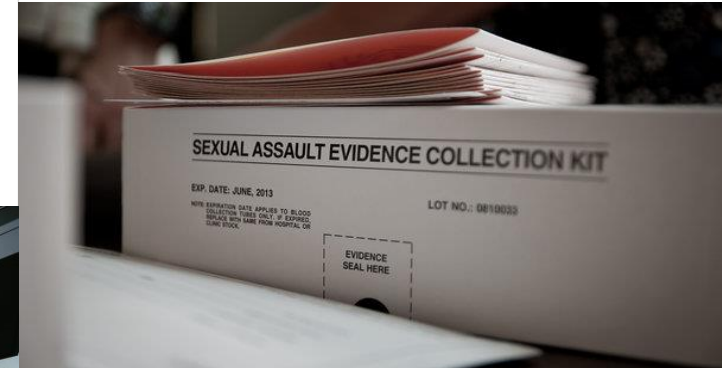


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Sexual Assault Kit Information Line

Reaching Out to Survivors



INFORMATION LINE:

(801) 893-1145

EMAIL:

DKirk@utah.gov



Information Line Goal:

Utah is working to test all previously unsubmitted sexual assault kits and wants to provide survivors information pertaining to their sexual assault case. Those survivors who would like information about their sexual assault kit can contact the information line or email the SAKI Victim Advocate. As testing progresses, we want to provide survivors an opportunity to receive information on their own terms.

Sometimes a reminder of a past assault can trigger strong emotions, such as fear, anger, or anxiety. Survivors who would NOT like further contact or information in regards to their sexual assault kit or case may contact the Information Line to Opt-Out of Notifications from local law enforcement agencies.

Unsubmitted Sexual Assault Kits

Across the nation, unsubmitted sexual assault kits have caused concern and question for change. Unsubmitted sexual assault kits have built up in communities because of a system wide breakdown. Since 2014, Utah has been proactively working to test all unsubmitted sexual assault kits and has made significant efforts to prevent sexual assault kits from accumulating in the future.

Utah's Sexual Assault Kit Initiative is committed to improving Utah's overall response to sexual assault. Further efforts are being made to establish victim-centered and trauma-informed best practices, increase multi-disciplinary collaboration, increase training opportunities for all professionals working with victims of sexual assault and increase transparency throughout the criminal justice system.

Rights as a Victim of Sexual Assault

(Utah Code 77-37-3 Victim Bill of Rights)

Victims of Sexual Offenses have the following rights regarding their sexual assault kits:

- The right to be informed whether a DNA profile was obtained from the testing of the rape kit evidence.
- The right to be informed whether a DNA profile developed from the rape kit evidence has been entered into the Utah Combined DNA Index System
- The right to be informed whether there is a match between a DNA profile developed from the rape kit evidence and a DNA profile contained in the Utah Combined DNA Index System.

Sexual Assault Kit

Part of a medical forensic examination to gather and preserve physical evidence from a victim's body after a sexual assault. The perpetrator's DNA could be left behind through saliva, skin cells, semen, and/or other bodily fluids found on the victim's body.

Unsubmitted Sexual Assault Kit

A sexual assault kit received by law enforcement, connected to a reported sexual assault and not submitted to the crime lab for testing.

DNA Profile

Unique patterns of genes, specific to an individual.

Combined DNA Index System (CODIS)

Federal, state and local databases that contain DNA profiles from both known offenders and crime scenes.

CODIS Hits

When a DNA profile matches another DNA profile in CODIS.

Test Results

DNA evidence is only part of the investigation. DNA testing can also produce inconclusive results, such as if the sample becomes contaminated or there was not enough DNA evidence to be analyzed.