

# SEXUAL ASSAULT GUIDE



**Clinton**  
**Police Department**  
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Clinton, UT 84015

This information is provided as a guide to victims of sexual assault. Clinton Police Department acknowledges that victims may be scared and confused. The Department encourages reporting of these heinous crimes and pledges that its members will treat victims with sensitivity and dignity. This guide complies with Utah Code 53-24-101

## POLICY

It is the policy of the Clinton Police Department that its members, when responding to reports of sexual assaults, will strive to minimize the trauma experienced by the victims, and will aggressively investigate sexual assaults, pursue expeditious apprehension and conviction of perpetrators, and protect the safety of the victims and the community.

## INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS

Upon report of a sexual assault, the following actions may occur:

- Our primary concern is your health and safety. Officers may provide you with suggestions such as going to the hospital to treat injuries, seeking a protective shelter, or other practical safety suggestions.
- **Preliminary Interview:** An officer will ask you some basic questions to get a brief understanding of what happened and determine what actions need to be taken.
- **Preservation of evidence**
  - Sexual Assault Kits (aka rape kits). If warranted, a sexual assault kit will be requested.
  - One of the purposes of the sexual assault kit is to preserve evidence such as DNA, clothing, etc.
- **Other evidence**
  - Additional evidence may be sought from the crime scene, cell phones, etc.
  - Officers may ask for your consent to search for additional evidence in these locations.
  - If evidence is sought from your cell phone, we will attempt to return your cell phone as soon as possible.
- **In-Depth/Follow-up Interview:** Best practices suggest waiting approximately three days before conducting a more in-depth interview. Victims often remember more about the event once they have had time to process the trauma, which could produce additional leads for the investigation. This interview will likely occur with a detective who has received special training in sexual assault investigations.
- **Follow-up investigation:** Each case is different, and the investigative methods vary. However, in almost every case, an officer will attempt to interview the individual suspected of committing the crime. The amount of time needed to complete this follow-up investigation will vary by case.
- **Officers and Detectives will document the investigation.** You can request this police report by contacting the Clinton Police Department at 801-614-0800.
- **Once the investigation is completed,** it will be reviewed by the Davis County Attorney's Office to determine if charges will be filed. If charges are filed, you may be required to attend certain court hearings. The Davis County Attorney's Office has victim advocates that

can help you understand the court process. If you have any questions for the Davis County Attorney's Office, you can contact them at (801) 451-4300.

## **VICTIM RESOURCES**

Clinton Police Department: 801-614-0800

Clinton City Victim Advocate: 801-643-8131

Safe Harbor Crisis Center: 801-444-9161

Sexual Violence Help Line: 801-736-4356

Sexual Assault Kit Information: 801-893-1145

Sexual Assault Kit Tracking System: [sakt.ps.utah.gov/sakt/status](http://sakt.ps.utah.gov/sakt/status)

## SEXUAL ASSAULT KIT FAQ

**What is sexual assault?** Sexual assault- Any crime or attempted crime of a sexual nature, including but not limited to offenses defined in Utah Code, Title 76, Chapter 5, Part 4 (Sexual Offenses).

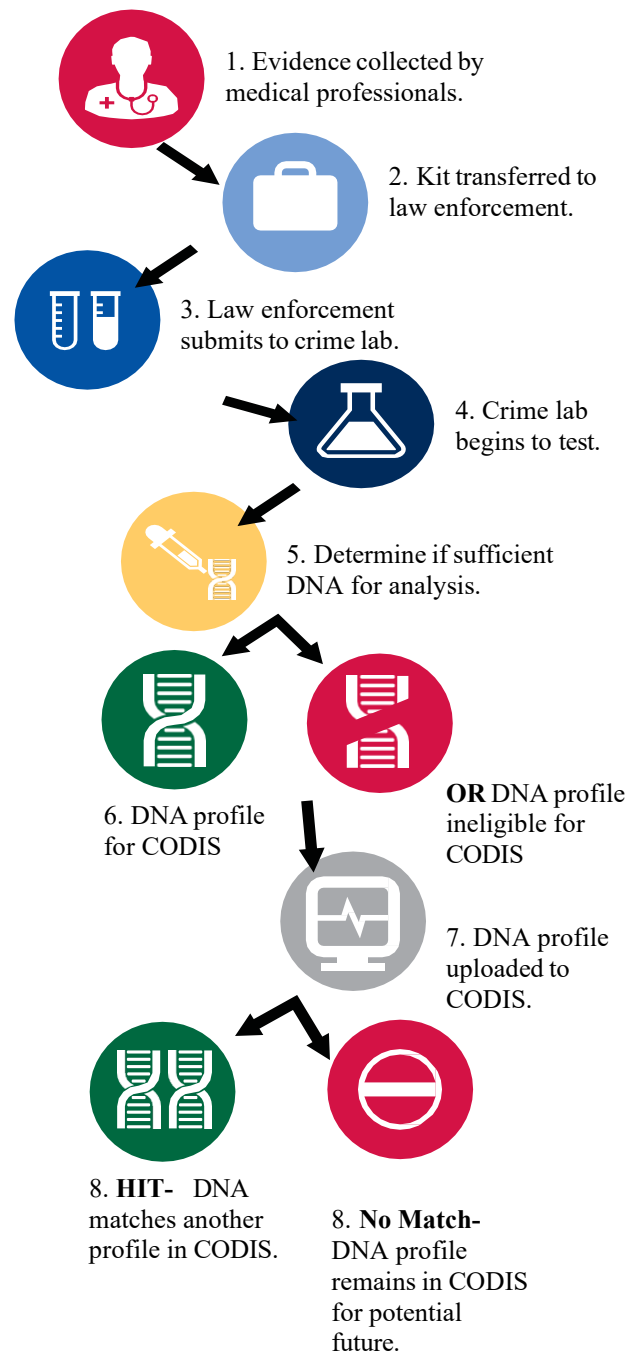
**What is a sexual assault kit (SAK)?** A sexual assault kit (also known as a rape kit), is part of a medical forensic examination to collect evidence after a sexual assault. This might include swabs of any area where there was contact between the victim and the perpetrator.

**Why is a SAK collected?** The kit is intended to help collect and preserve potential evidence. The perpetrator's DNA could be left behind on the victim's body through saliva, skin cells, semen, and/or other bodily fluids. The presence of DNA can prove sexual contact from the suspect. Police and prosecution may use this evidence to help them investigate and/or prosecute a case or even solve other crimes.

**Who does the SAK examination?** A trained health care provider completes the sexual assault kit. The health care provider can also do a full exam to care for and document any injuries and provide the victim with emergency contraception or other medication (perhaps to prevent contracting sexual transmitted infections). Documentation of injuries is also important for investigating and prosecuting a sexual assault.

**What happens after the SAK is collected?** After the sexual assault kit is collected, the law enforcement agency will take custody of the kit and then turn it into the crime lab to be analyzed (unless a restricted kit). As of July 1, 2018, all sexual assault kits are required by Utah law to be submitted to the Utah Crime Lab within 30 days of law enforcement receiving the kit.

**What is a restricted kit?** A sexual assault kit where the victim does not wish to speak with law enforcement or file a report. Restricted kits will be maintained by the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction. The victim has the option at any time to make a report with law enforcement and have their kit sent to the crime lab to be analyzed. Law enforcement agencies are required to keep restricted sexual assault kits for 20 years.



**What is DNA?** It stands for deoxyribonucleic acid. It exists in human cells, like in blood, teeth, and hair. It is a blueprint for how each human should be built. DNA is like fingerprints; no two people have the same fingerprint, and no two people have the same DNA except for identical twins.

**How does the crime lab analyze the SAK?** The crime lab looks at the swabs and other items in the kit. They check for DNA. It is possible they will not find any DNA, or sometimes DNA can become contaminated. If they do find DNA, they will create a DNA profile.

**What is a DNA profile and how is it used?** A DNA profile is a unique pattern of genes, specific to an individual. A DNA profile appears as a series of numbers and does not include information about physical traits such as race, age, or medical conditions. When a DNA profile is created it is uploaded into CODIS where it will be searched against other DNA profiles in CODIS to find a match or hit.

**What is CODIS?** CODIS stands for the Combined DNA Index System. CODIS is a master computer database that stores DNA profiles. There are two ways in which DNA profiles are uploaded into CODIS: A DNA profile from an unknown perpetrator is created from crime scene evidence and entered into the database (i.e., a sexual assault kit). A DNA profile from a known perpetrator is entered into the database (i.e., convicted felons must give DNA to be entered into CODIS).

**How does CODIS work?** When a new DNA profile is created following a crime, it is entered into CODIS. The newly entered profile will be searched against other profiles. If there is a match between the new DNA profile and an existing profile in CODIS it comes back as a “hit” or “match”. A hit/match could also generate years after the profile is uploaded.

**Is the profile taken out of CODIS after a hit/match?** DNA profiles are stored in CODIS even after a hit/match to help link and solve future crimes.

**What does a CODIS hit/match mean for my sexual assault case?** A CODIS hit/match could potentially identify an unknown suspect, confirm a suspect, or link the suspect to another crime. However, DNA evidence is not the only part of the investigation, other evidence is generally needed to prove a case.