



WEBER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

D.N.A. RECOGNITION AND COLLECTION

EFFECTIVE DATE: 09/19/08
 AMENDS/SUPERCEDES: new
 STANDARD NUMBER: 83.2.7

REVIEW DATE:
 REVISION DATE:
 APPROVED: _____
 Sheriff Signature

55.13.1 Purpose

It is the purpose of the section to outline Office policy and procedures in the recognition and collection of DNA and other biological evidence.

55.13.2 Rationale

A DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) match is a major factor in solving cases where the identity of the offender is not known. The development of matching DNA has made a major impact on law enforcement and improvements in technology continue to advance this means of identification even with very small or old samples. For maximum success, Weber County Sheriff's Office personnel must have a good understanding of where DNA can be found, how to avoid contamination and how to preserve fragile DNA evidence. Weber County Sheriff's Office personnel that specialize in evidence collection should have specialized training in collecting and preserving DNA samples for analysis.

55.13.3 Policy

It is the policy of the Weber County Sheriff's Office to protect crime scenes in a manner to best preserves fragile DNA evidence.

55.13.4 Procedure

A. Collection and Preservation of evidence may include the following steps:

1. First responders who encounter possible biological evidence, such as DNA at a reported crime scene, will follow protocols for safety, protection, and preservation of all evidence as stated in WCSO Policy Chapter/Section Number: 55.4.1. This includes at a minimum to secure the crime scene to protect integrity of evidence.
2. Crime scenes involving DNA or other biological materials shall be processed by deputies, and preferably crime scene technicians who

are trained in proper collection of these types of materials. Training will be specific to the recognition, preservation and collecting of biological evidence. Guidelines established by the Utah Bureau of Forensic Services, and other laboratories accredited by the American Society of Crime Lab Directors (ASCLD/LAB) will be used as a standard for the training. Training should include: Recognition of biological evidence including blood, saliva, seminal fluid and epithelial cells, as well as touch or contact DNA. Training and instruction regarding biological evidence will stress the importance and fragile nature of DNA evidence as well as methods for handling and collecting biological evidence to avoid the possibility of cross contamination. Deputies should familiarize themselves with Weber County Sheriff's Office Training brief: DNA Evidence.

3. In instances where biological evidence is encountered, appropriate protocols should be used to notify a crime scene technician to respond to that location. Deputies and / or crime scene technicians will use procedures set forth in the Utah Bureau of Forensic Science guidelines for handling, collection and preservation of biological evidence as well as other guidelines from laboratories accredited by the American Society of Crime Lab Directors (ASCLD/LAB).

B. Submission of DNA and biological evidence.

1. DNA and biological evidence collected will be retained by the deputy and / or crime scene technician until delivered to the department temporary secure storage facilities (i.e., evidence lockers) or turned over directly to the evidence / property custodian. Chain of custody procedures must be followed at all times. WCSO Policy 55.3.2 All evidence will be booked by the end of the processing member's shift.
2. Biological evidence will be submitted from the WCSO property section for examination to laboratories that are accredited by The American Society of Crime Lab Directors (ASCLD/LAB).