

# Terms to Know

## Rape Kit:

Also known as a sexual assault evidence kit, or SAEK, rape kits are used during a sexual assault forensic exam to collect potential evidence of the sexual assault.

## Forensic Testing (“testing”):

Analysis completed by a crime laboratory that assists in identifying foreign DNA profiles that may be used to help identify a perpetrator.

## Unsubmitted SAEK:

A rape kit that was not sent to a crime lab for forensic testing.

## Untested SAEK:

A rape kit that was sent to a crime lab for forensic testing, but has not been tested.

## Victim Notification:

The opportunity for survivors to receive information and updates about the testing of their previously unsubmitted or untested rape kit.

## Maryland Track-kit:

A computer-based system, known as a SAEK tracking system, that allows survivors and service providers to track the status of a sexual assault evidence kit. Maryland launched this tracking system on May 28, 2024. All kits collected on or after this date should be available to track in the system. Efforts are being made to enter all kits collected before May 28, 2024 by March 31, 2026, as required by law.

# Rape Crisis & Recovery Centers

- Allegany**  
Family Crisis Resource Center 301-759-9244
- Anne Arundel**  
YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County 410-222-6800
- Baltimore City**  
TurnAround, Inc. 443-279-0379
- Baltimore County**  
TurnAround, Inc. 443-279-0379
- Calvert**  
Calvert Center for Change 1-877-467-5628
- Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Talbot**  
For All Seasons, Inc. 410-820-5600  
Para Español: 410-829-6143
- Carroll**  
CARE Healing Center 410-857-7322
- Cecil**  
The Bridge 410-996-0333
- Charles**  
Center for Abused Persons 301-645-3336
- Frederick**  
Heartyly House, Inc. 301-662-8800
- Garrett**  
Dove Center 301-334-9000  
Toll Free: 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)
- Harford**  
Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center (SARC) 410-836-8430
- Howard**  
HopeWorks 410-997-2272
- Montgomery**  
Trauma Services 240-777-4673
- Prince George’s**  
DV/SA Center at UM Capital Region Medical Center 240-677-2337
- St. Mary’s**  
Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy 240-925-0084
- Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester**  
Life Crisis Center, Inc. 410-749-HELP (4357)
- Washington**  
CASA, Inc. 301-739-8975

### Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI)

www.mcasa.org  
301-565-2277  
toll-free: 1-877-496-SALI (7254)

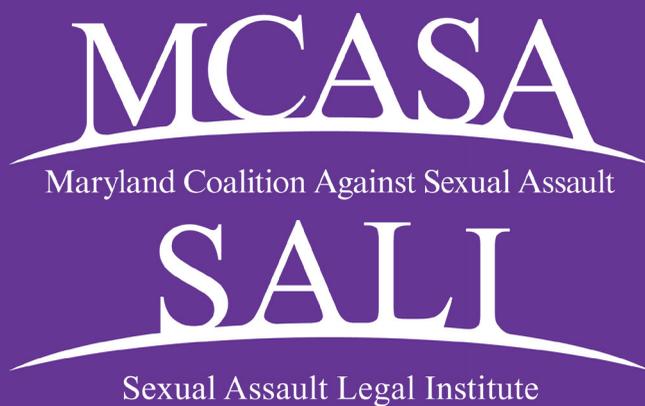
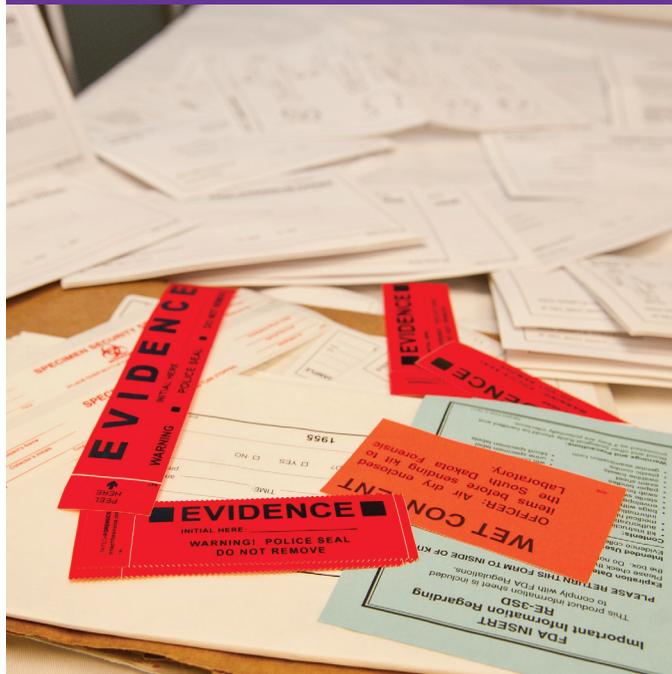


Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
mcasa.org  
301-565-2277 | 877-496-SALI  
fax: 301-565-3619  
P.O. Box 8782, Silver Spring, Maryland 20907

The Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy funded this project under subaward number #SARC-2025-0011. All points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of any State or Federal agency.

# Your Sexual Assault Evidence Kit

## Know Your Rights



# Your Body. Your Kit. Your Rights.

If you are a survivor of sexual assault in Maryland and had a sexual assault forensic exam (SAFE), you have rights over your sexual assault evidence kit (“kit”). These rights can help you make informed decisions about your kit.

If you have any questions about your rights or need support contacting law enforcement about your kit, you can contact MCASA’s confidential Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) Opt-In Information Lines.

Call SAKI at 833-364-0046 or email [notification@mcasa.org](mailto:notification@mcasa.org)

Legal services are also available through MCASA’s Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI).

Call SALI at 301-565-2277 or 877-496-SALI for free legal help.



## Testing Your Kit

**Q: What is sexual assault evidence kit testing?**

**A:** Rape kit testing is part of the criminal investigation process. Law enforcement is responsible for submitting a kit to a crime lab to test for the presence of foreign DNA that may be linked to the offender.

**Q: How long does rape kit testing take?**

**A:** Testing is a multi-step process and the total time can vary by case, generally taking anywhere from 2 to 12 months. Some unusual cases take longer. You can ask for updates during this process.

**Q: Will my kit be tested?**

**A:** Generally, law enforcement must submit all kits that are eligible for DNA testing in accordance with state law. However, you have the right to decline having your kit sent for testing. If you do not want your kit to be tested, the detective must be notified. You can contact the Opt-In Information Lines if you would like an advocate to help you with this.

**Q: Will I be informed about the testing of my kit?**

**A:** You have the right to request that law enforcement notify you when they decide

whether your kit will be DNA tested. If your kit is tested, you can request to be updated about the status of testing and the testing results. You can contact the Opt-In Information Lines to discuss how, when, and why you are contacted about your kit. If your kit has been entered into the statewide tracking system, Track-Kit, you can receive updates and notifications there.

**Q: When will law enforcement respond to my request regarding the testing of my kit?**

**A:** If you request information regarding the testing of your kit, law enforcement must respond within 30 days.

**Q: What if law enforcement decides not to test my kit?**

**A:** If law enforcement decides not to test your kit, you have the right to request an independent review of the decision by the local Sexual Assault Response Team. An advocate from your local Rape Crisis Center or SALI can help you make this request.

**Q: What if I wish to remain anonymous?**

**A:** If you chose to have an anonymous exam, your kit will not be sent for testing. An anonymous kit will only be considered for testing if, and when, you decide to file a criminal complaint with law enforcement.

**Q: Do I have the right to change my mind about testing my kit?**

**A:** You may change your mind about testing of your kit. Testing can be stopped at any time prior to completion. If you chose to report to the police when your kit was first collected and no longer want your kit to be considered for testing, you can contact the Opt-In Information Lines or law enforcement to inform them that you no longer wish to move forward with testing. If you chose to

do an anonymous exam and then reported your assault later, your kit may be eligible for testing.

**Q: How long does law enforcement have to pick up my kit from the medical facility?**

**A:** Under Maryland law, law enforcement has 30 days to pick up a kit from the medical facility where it was collected.

**Q: How long does law enforcement have to submit my kit to the crime laboratory for testing?**

**A:** Once law enforcement picks up your kit from the medical facility, they have 30 days to submit your kit and all relevant samples to the crime laboratory for testing.

## Tracking Your Kit

**Q: What is Maryland Track-Kit?**

**A:** Track-Kit is an online system that allows survivors of sexual crimes to track the location and status of a kit collected in Maryland. This system went live on May 28, 2024. If your kit was collected on or after this date, you should have received login information. Law enforcement is required to enter all kits collected before May 28, 2024 into the system by March 31, 2026. To access the Track-Kit system, visit: <https://md.track-kit.us/login>.

**Q: What if I lost or do not have Track-Kit login information?**

**A:** If you do not have your login information, you may contact the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam program that collected your kit, or the law enforcement agency that is investigating your case. Either can provide you with login information or reset your password. If you would like help with this, you can contact the Opt-In Information Lines.

## Storing Your Kit

**Q: How long will law enforcement keep my kit?**

**A:** Generally, law enforcement must retain your kit for at least 75 years after the evidence is collected. However, you are entitled to request that law enforcement keep your kit beyond 75 years. You can do this by submitting a written request to law enforcement.

## Destroying Your Kit

**Q: Will I be notified before my kit is destroyed?**

**A:** You can make a written request that law enforcement notify you prior to the destruction of your kit. You can contact the Opt-In Information Lines if you would like an advocate to help you with this.

**Q: If I request to be notified prior to the destruction of my kit, when will I be notified?**

**A:** Law enforcement must notify you at least 60 days before your kit is destroyed.

**Q: Can law enforcement destroy my kit before the required 75 years have passed?**

**A:** Law enforcement may only destroy your kit prior to the 75 years if the case resulted in conviction and the sentence has been completed, or all suspects identified by kit testing are deceased.



**MCASA'S SEXUAL ASSAULT KIT INITIATIVE**

**"OPT-IN" INFORMATION LINES**

**833-364-0046 | [notification@mcasa.org](mailto:notification@mcasa.org)**