

Procedure

5.17

**EFFECTIVE
DATE
12-8-16**

Eugene Police Department



Sexual Assault Response Team - Notification

5.17.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This procedure provides a standardized notification process for investigations involving the Lane County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), of which the Eugene Police Department is a member.

The Eugene Police Department recognizes that whether to notify victims of testing results when a negative result is found is a controversial topic. As recognized by the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF) Notification Recommendations, the national trend is to *not* notify victims of testing that provided negative results (i.e., no foreign DNA found.) The study also supported the conclusion that the majority of participants, "Widely supported an approach that offers survivors the choice about whether and when to receive information about their cases."

5.17.2 DEFINITIONS

Sexual Assault Response Team (SART): A multi-disciplinary team comprised of Lane County District Attorney's Office Victim Services Program, Lane County District Attorney's Office, Eugene Police Department and other local law enforcement agencies, Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS), Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs), Senior and Disabled Services, University of Oregon and other agencies as appointed. The mission is to develop effective, consistent, collaborative, compassionate, comprehensive, and culturally relevant response to victims/survivors of sexual assault while extending a healing and supportive attitude and bringing responsible persons to justice.

Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) Hit/Offender Match: When a previously unidentified forensic sample hits to an offender sample in the CODIS database.

Forensic Match/"Case-to-Case Match": When a CODIS database hit identifies a match between two unsolved cases, but no suspect is identified.

Consensual Partner: The individual whom the victim reports having consensual sex with close in time to the offense.

Known Offender: A suspect whom the victim named such that the full identity of the suspect is not in question.

Unknown Offender: The full identity of the suspect is in question or not fully resolved (this would include, for example, complete stranger suspects as well as suspects only known by nickname or first name.)

5.17.3 NOTIFICATION DECISIONS

Notification decisions are made by SART.

Notifications will be made based on *Procedure 5.17 Appendix A*.

If SART has been contacted directly by a victim who has expressed their particular notification preference, SART will make every effort to honor that request.

5.17.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

The Violent Crimes Unit (VCU) Sergeant is the EPD member of SART. When a notification decision is to be made based on a DNA test result, the VCU Sergeant or designated detective will make notifications along with a Victim Services Advocate. Depending on the circumstances of the case, the notification team may also include the Lane County District Attorney, or their designee.