



Sexual Assault Evidence Tracking System



Sexual Assault Evidence (SAE) Tracking System Legislation

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is required by House Bill 281 of the 85th Regular Legislative Session to develop and implement a statewide electronic tracking system for evidence collected in cases involving sexual assault or other sex offenses. The bill requires the system to track the status and location of each item of evidence through various stages of the criminal justice process, allow entities involved in the handling of the evidence to update and track the status and location of evidence, and allow survivors to anonymously track or receive updates on the status of evidence. Participation in the tracking system is required by any entity that collects evidence of sexual assaults or other sex offenses or investigates or prosecutes such offenses. HB 281 took effect September 1, 2017 and must be implemented by September 1, 2019.

What is DPS doing?

The DPS Crime Laboratory Service is working with the DPS Enterprise Project Management Office (EPMO) on the solicitation/procurement of a vendor to develop and maintain the software system. The system will be cloud-based and will allow medical professionals, law enforcement, crime labs, and prosecutors to log-on and enter information about sexual assault evidence. The system will not contain personally identifiable information. Survivors will have the ability to anonymously query the status and location of their sexual assault evidence. The system will also provide reports to identify the status of sexual assault evidence in the state. DPS plans to provide easy-to-access training resources to support the use of the system. Accomplishments to date include:

- Completion of statement of work.
- Hired a Program Specialist to administer the system, provide training, and manage system rollout.
- Submission of the Request for Offer to the DPS Office of General Counsel for review.

Who will be impacted?

This new program may involve the following groups:

- Sexual Assault Survivors
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) and others who collect sexual assault evidence
- Hospitals and Medical Facilities
- Law Enforcement Agencies
- Crime Laboratories
- Prosecuting Attorneys
- Sexual Assault Advocacy Organizations

What is the estimated schedule?

05/2018: Release of Request for Offer
09/2018: Award Vendor Contract
10/2018 – 01/2019: System Design & Development
02/2019 – 03/2019: System Testing
04/2019 – 08/2019: Training
09/01/2019: Statewide Implementation

Where can you find more information?

The DPS Crime Laboratory website contains updates and additional information about this program.

<http://www.dps.texas.gov/CrimeLaboratory/SAE.htm>

Who to Contact?

Texas DPS Crime Laboratory
SAE Tracking System Program Specialist
Rebecca Vieh
512-424-7984
Rebecca.Vieh@dps.texas.gov

