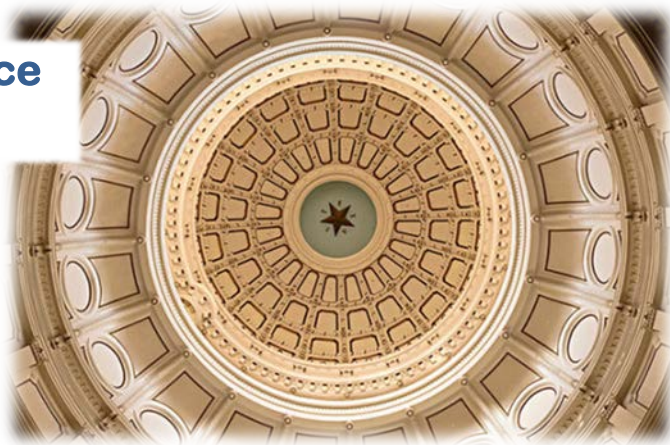




Sexual Assault Evidence Tracking System



Sexual Assault Evidence (SAE) Tracking System Legislation

The Sexual Assault Evidence Tracking Program was created by the DPS Crime Laboratory Service after the 85th Texas Legislature passed House Bill 281, which added Section 420.034 to the Texas Government Code, requiring DPS 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 requires DPS to implement the tracking system by September 1, 2019.

What is DPS doing?

The Crime Laboratory Service continues to work with Procurement & Contract Services on the selection of a vendor to develop and maintain the software system. The Request for Offer (RFO) was released on April 27th and vendor responses are due by June 1st. Additionally, Crime Laboratory staff has:

- Met with DPS Office of General Counsel (OGC) to discuss drafting Administrative Rules to support the SAE Tracking Program. The Crime Lab will draft rules and submit to OGC for feedback and guidance.
- Initiated the grant application process for the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence – Inventory, Tracking, and Reporting (SAFE-ITR) Program grant. This grant can be used to fund and support various components of the SAE Tracking Program. Applications are due May 21st.
- Attended meetings with various stakeholder groups to promote the tracking system.

What can you do?

Are you a member of one of the following groups that has a role in sexual assault cases?

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

If so, the SAE Tracking Program is looking for meetings, trainings, or conferences to attend in the Fall of 2018 to promote the SAE Tracking System. Please use the contact information below to schedule a presentation.

What is the estimated schedule?

04/27/2018: Request for Offer Released
06/01/2018: Request for Offer Responses Due
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?

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