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|  | **Title**: | EVIDENCE COLLECTION, STORAGE AND DESTRUCTION | | **Policy #** | | MO.2.02 |
| **Division:** | Forensic | | **Page:** | | Page 1 of 1 |
| **Coroner Signature:** | |  | **NAME Reference:** | | C7a, C7c | |
| **Approved/Revised Date:** | | **02-20-2024** | **IACME Reference:** | | A6c,A9c,C5c,C5e,C6a | |



**POLICY**:

The Ada County Coroner’s Office (ACCO) collects and handles evidence as standard practice. Evidence is collected at the discretion of the forensic pathologist, and as requested by the investigating law enforcement personnel, and prosecuting attorney. Evidence may be either released to law enforcement personnel following established standard operating procedures for chain of custody or held within a designated and secure area at the ACCO in accordance with ACCO evidence standards.

**PROCEDURE**:

1. **General**
   1. Evidence collected at the time of an autopsy shall be released to the investigating law enforcement agency at the completion of the examination; or secured within the ACCO Evidence Room pending release, if requested.
   2. At the discretion of the Ada County Coroner and forensic pathologist, collected evidence may be held for a designated period of time, or indefinitely, within the ACCO Evidence Room.
   3. Evidence destruction shall occur following approval by the Ada County Coroner and forensic pathologist; being documented and in accordance with standard operating procedures.
2. **Sexual Assault Evidence Kits**
   1. Sexual Assault Evidence Kits will be:
      1. Provided and tracked by the Idaho State Police
      2. Made available to support evidence collection as required by the forensic pathologist or requested by investigating law enforcement personnel.
   2. Collection, and release shall follow Idaho statutory requirements.
   3. Chain of custody will be documented within the ACCO case management system.