

## **Chain of Custody**

The chain of custody is a chronological documentation or paper trail that documents the collection of, transfer, custody, testing, or disposition of any items considered evidence. The integrity of evidence and admissibility in court is predicated upon an unbroken chain of custody. It is important to demonstrate that the evidence introduced at trial is the same evidence collected at the death scene, and that access was controlled and documented. Retain a copy of a signed chain of custody for the transfer of evidence either to the C/DC or from the C/DC to DFS or law enforcement.