

Executive Order 2016-02

The Arizona Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit Task Force

WHEREAS, Arizona prosecutors use evidence obtained from sexual assault kits to convict dangerous sex offenders;

WHEREAS, Arizona's policies for tracking and processing sexual assault kits requires evaluation and reform;

WHEREAS, the lack of a uniform process among jurisdictions has resulted in a backlog of over 2,300 untested sexual assault kits in Maricopa County alone, and an unknown number of untested sexual assault kits statewide;

WHEREAS, government serves an important role in protecting public safety and ensuring justice for all citizens, including victims of sexual assault;

WHEREAS, processing of these kits is a critical first step in bringing justice for victims and holding offenders accountable for their crimes;

WHEREAS, a statewide collaborative effort dedicated to developing recommendations for a standard statewide protocol for sexual assault evidence collection kits will advance justice for the citizens of the State of Arizona;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Douglas A. Ducey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Arizona Constitution and laws of the State of Arizona, hereby establish the Arizona Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit Task Force and order as follows:

1. The Governor shall appoint all members. Membership shall include, but is not limited to, one representative from each of the following:
 - a. The Arizona Department of Public Safety,
 - b. The Arizona Governor's Office,
 - c. The Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family,
 - d. The Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence,
 - e. The Arizona Voice for Crime Victims,
 - f. An individual with demonstrated experience in the field of social work,
 - g. A health care provider with forensic nurses on staff,
 - h. A member of the Arizona Senate,
 - i. A member of the Arizona House of Representatives,
 - j. A Tribal Chief of Police,
 - k. One police chief, county attorney, or county sheriff with a population greater than 800,000, and
 - l. One police chief, county attorney, or county sheriff with a population less than 800,000.
2. Members of the Task Force serve without compensation and at the pleasure of the Governor.
3. The Governor shall appoint a chairperson.
4. The duties of the Task Force include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Develop and recommend a statewide standard process for testing protocols of sexual assault evidence collection kits, that may incorporate best practices from other jurisdictions,
 - b. Develop and recommend a statewide tracking system for all sexual assault kits,
 - c. Identify and document the locations of all untested sexual assault kits,

- d. Provide legislative recommendations to ensure that every sexual assault kit be tested in a timely manner in the future,
 - e. Develop an ongoing continuing education plan in the areas of investigation, prosecution, and victim engagement, and
 - f. Provide recommendations for funding sources to clear the backlogs, including available grant opportunities.
5. The Task Force shall provide the Governor with a report of their recommendations no later than October 1, 2016.
 6. This Executive Order expires on December 31, 2016.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.



Douglas R. Ducey
GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this Eleventh day of January in the Year Two Thousand and Sixteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Fortieth.

ATTEST:

Michelle Reagan

Secretary of State