

## Marijuana

Draft 10-19-09

Marijuana is tested by property room clerks who have been specially trained to do so. The clerk is available to testify in court as an expert witness with regard to marijuana identification.

## Other Drugs

All other drugs are sent to the Western Washington State Crime Laboratory for processing. Processing takes four to six weeks for a response from the crime lab. Due to the large quantity of drug evidence sent to the Washington State Crime Lab, drugs seized will not automatically be sent to the crime lab for testing, and therefore will not require a "Request for Laboratory Examination" form. The Snohomish County Prosecutors Office will send a notice of follow up to the case officer, if the drugs need to be tested for trial purposes. The only other reason for immediately sending the suspected drugs to the Crime Lab, would be for an inconclusive field test. Detectives may use their discretion when requesting that drugs be tested, prior to prosecutorial requests.

(Lab tests will only be requested if the field tests are inconclusive, or if the test will be required for court (Training Bulletin 2005-15).

Upon notification that drugs need to be officially tested at the Crime Lab, officers will utilize the following procedures:

~~The following procedures will be followed:~~

All items must be in *sealed* packaging and must be accompanied by a "*Request for Laboratory Examination*" form

Larger items such as scales can be packaged in paper bags, boxes, etc. - - whatever it takes to fit the item.

Small items (plastic bags of Cocaine, etc.) must be submitted in the large 9x11 manila envelopes.

You may combine several small items into one 9x11 envelope as long as the outer envelope is clearly marked with the item numbers that it contains. Each individual item inside must be marked with its item number as well.

**Do not** combine marijuana with cocaine or other narcotic items. – The WSP Crime Lab is charged with testing all controlled substances other than marijuana, which is tested by Property Room personnel.

Items of potentially hazardous nature (methamphetamine) should be packaged in airtight metal cans.



# Everett Police Department Memorandum

**To:** Lt. Braley *CB*  
**CC:** Sgt DeRousse *VA*  
**From:** C. Barrows #1129  
**Date:** October 14, 2009  
**Re:** Procedures Manual Update

*Captain - This is an  
easy fix to the  
procedures manual.  
MBC  
J Conner*

While preparing the October briefing training on Property Room procedures, I discovered an area in our Procedures manual that needs clarification (Other Drugs / Lab Request pg.191). Past practice for patrol was to submit a lab request when impounding drugs, except for marijuana, if a test is desired.

This is no longer the case. Per Lisa Romberg, lab requests are not to be submitted with the impound of the suspected drugs. The lab request will only be submitted by the officers at the prosecutor's request. This applies to patrol only. Detectives can use their discretion whether to have a suspected drug tested. According to Lisa Romberg, patrol is still submitting the requests when they impound suspected drugs which led me to review the procedure manual and discover the outdated (or at least unclear) information.

I have included page 191 from the Procedures Manual with this memorandum.

Respectfully submitted,

Corey Barrows #1129

## Laboratory Processing of Evidence

### Other Items/Other Laboratories

**Items other than drugs** impounded as evidence are processed through the Crime Lab only upon request through the Property Room Clerk. This task shall be left up to the detective assigned to the case, the detective division sergeant, or lieutenant. Request for analysis by officers shall be submitted to Investigations.

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**Lab Request** – The following "**Lab Request**" must accompany all requests for drug testing, except for marijuana. The impounding officer must fill in the areas highlighted in yellow if applicable.