

17.02

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.

Marijuana

~~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 requiring testing are sent to the Western Washington State Crime Laboratory for processing. Processing can takes four to six weeks for a response from the crime lab. Due to the large quantity of drug evidence that is impounded sent to the Washington State Crime Lab, drugs that are seized will not automatically be sent to the Crime Lab for testing, and therefore will not usually require a "Request for Laboratory Examination" form. The Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office or the Everett City Prosecutor's Office will send a notice of follow up to the case officer, if the drugs need to be tested for trial purposes. When that notice is received the case officer will complete and submit the Lab Exam request form. The impounding officer may complete the Lab Exam request for immediate processing. ~~The only other reason for immediately sending the suspected drugs to the Crime Lab, would be because of for an inconclusive field test. Detectives may use their discretion to 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:

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.

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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.

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.

When completing the Lab Request **do not** fill in the block labeled “Submitted By”. The person who delivers the items to the lab will complete this block.

Do not remove any of the copies of the Lab Request. If you need a copy make a photocopy.

The address for the Evidence/Property Room is **2722 Colby, Basement, Everett, WA 98201**

Shown is the only portion of the REQUEST FOR LABORATORY EXAMINATION form, which officers should concern themselves with, the portion of the form not shown is for Property/Evidence Room personnel only.