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The Impact of DNA on the Forensic Exam and the Law Enforcement Investigation

This interactive class will provide you with information about the current status of DNA in crimes of sexual assault and child molest. Concrete techniques will be explored so that you can use the information in real world applications. To accomplish this, participants will be provided with actual cases to evaluate all aspects of evidence that might be found in a sexual assault. The evidence will then be interpreted and the impact on the case outcome discussed. Participants will specifically learn to differentiate between evidence needed to identify a suspect and evidence more commonly needed to overcome consent defenses in sexual assault.

This training is open to prosecutors, law enforcement, forensic examiners and advocates.

Participants will be able to:

- Understand the use of DNA in crimes of sexual assault and child molest
- Identify local, state and national DNA databases
- Recognize various barriers to realizing the potential of DNA evidence, and ways of overcoming these barriers
- Properly assess all aspects of evidence that might be found in a sexual assault
- Understand the impact specific evidence may have on the disposition of an investigation
- Understand the differences in evidence needed to corroborate sexual assaults involving consent defenses and those where the assailant's identity is in question
- Understand the unique challenges officers and detectives face when investigating crimes of sexual assault