



BILL SCHUETTE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF MICHIGAN

September 25, 2015

Re: **New Funding Opportunity Available to Prosecutors
to Pay for Testing Previously Untested Sexual Assault Kits**

Dear Prosecutor:

Recognizing the importance of obtaining justice for Michigan victims of sexual assault, I requested unanticipated settlement proceeds to be appropriated to test backlogged sexual assault kits for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2015. The Legislature ultimately appropriated \$1.7 million for this purpose. Section 316 of 2015 PA 84 provides that the monies be used in the following priority:

- (a) To eliminate all county sexual assault kit backlogs outside of Wayne County.
- (b) To assist local prosecutors with investigations and prosecutions of viable cases.
- (c) To provide victim services.

In anticipation of October 1, 2015, I ask that you identify the number of backlogged kits, older than one year, in your county that could be tested at one of the state-contracted laboratories. The oldest kits should take priority.

For those backlogged kits where no funding is currently available to pay for testing, the Department of Attorney General is prepared to use as much of the \$1.7 million as necessary to test the kits at one of the state-contracted laboratories. To be clear, these funds will not be used to supplant grant monies or any other dedicated fund that would pay for the testing of backlogged kits. Once the kits are tested, any remaining money will be used for priorities (b) and (c).

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Counts may be provided to Assistant Attorney General Anica Letica at 517-373-4875 or LeticaA@michigan.gov by October 9, 2015. Chief Deputy Attorney General Carol Isaacs also welcomes phone calls to discuss this issue. Once the total counts are received, we will provide details on how the kits may be delivered to the state-contracted labs.

Please take this opportunity to obtain counts from all law enforcement entities within your county so that the Department of Attorney General will have complete and accurate numbers. I send this letter today in the hope that all untested kits are identified, because the \$1.7 million represents one-time funding.

If you need additional information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Letica, or Chief Deputy Carol L. Isaacs.

Sincerely,



Bill Schuette
Attorney General

WDS/cla

cc: Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan
Michigan Sheriffs' Association
Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police