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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Sexual Assault Evidence Processing Improved  
at Bexar County Crime Lab**

On June 1, 2022, the Bexar County Criminal Investigations Laboratory (BCCIL) streamlined their processing of physical evidence collected via sexual assault evidence collection kits. Bexar County invested \$167,000 to improve capacity and processing time for these kits, typically collected by a sexual assault nurse examiner immediately following the outcry of a survivor.

Bexar County Commissioners Court approved funding as part of the regular 2021/22 budget. Use of this process, called Direct-to-DNA/Y-Chromosome Screening (DTD/Y-Screen), will change how most sexual assault evidence is processed.

If a case involves a female victim and a male suspect, the evidence will be screened for the presence of human male DNA. If male DNA is detected, a genetic profile will be developed and immediately compared with the suspect's DNA (if available) or entered into the Combined DNA Index System. The BCCIL will produce only one report for the investigator.

BCCIL Director Orin Dym explained, "This is an important and significant step forward to improve the number of kits we process and reduce the waiting period for investigators without jeopardizing the scientific quality of our analysis."

Bexar County Chief Public Defender Michael Young stated, "DNA evidence has been critical in the exoneration of persons wrongly accused and the wrongly convicted. The efforts of Bexar County that will result in the preservation and timely processing of DNA evidence will help avoid cases where someone is wrongly convicted on eyewitness misidentification, false confessions and unreliable informant testimony."

It is BCCIL's mission to provide the citizens of Bexar County and its customers with comprehensive, impartial, reliable scientific analysis of evidence. Our experts are skilled in the latest technology in forensic science, and the work is performed as cost effectively and timely as possible without jeopardizing the quality of work, the integrity of the laboratory, or the principles of justice.

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