

UPDATES FROM THE CONFERENCE OF CLERKS OF SUPERIOR COURT :

*A LOOK AT SOME OF THE PROJECTS BEING WORKED ON THAT COULD
BENEFIT LAW ENFORCEMENT, TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS, ETC.*

NOVEMBER 2019

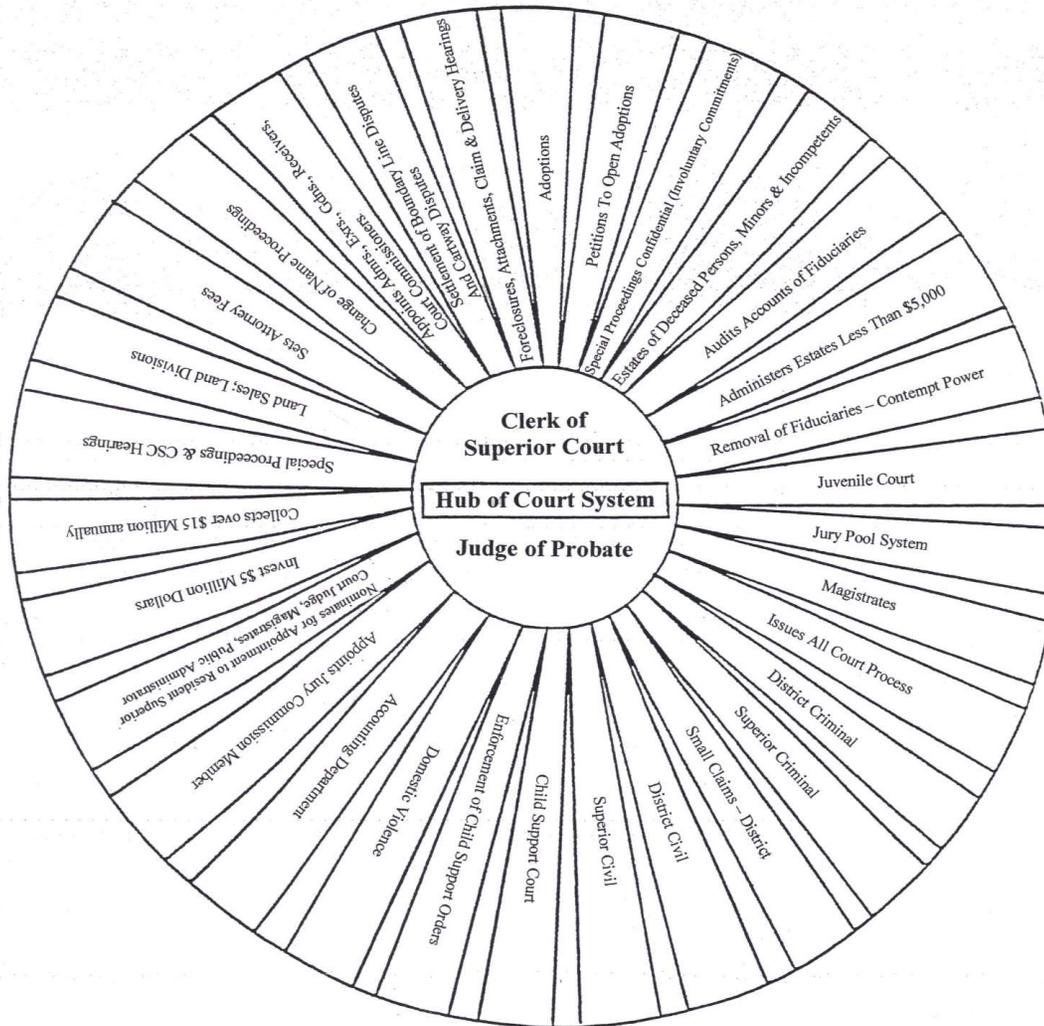
JAMIE LASSITER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NC CONFERENCE OF CSCS



AGENDA:

- ❖ **ROLE OF THE CLERK OF COURT IN NC**
- ❖ **WORKGROUP ON EVIDENCE MANAGEMENT, STORAGE AND DISPOSITION**
- ❖ **GRANT WITH SOG ON ELDER ABUSE BEST PRACTICES**
- ❖ **DV CLERK COORDINATORS + TRAINING**





ROLE OF THE CLERK OF COURT IN NORTH CAROLINA



THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT HAS 5 MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITIES IN ALL 100 COUNTIES:



1. JUDGE OF PROBATE

- HOLDS EXCLUSIVE ORIGINAL JURISDICTION OVER MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROBATE OF WILLS & ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES
- PRESIDES OVER ADOPTIONS, COMPETENCY, POWER OF ATTORNEY AND GUARDIANSHIP PROCEEDINGS
- PRESIDES OVER CONDEMNATIONS OF PRIVATE LANDS FOR PUBLIC USE
- PRESIDES OVER MANY OTHER CIVIL HEARINGS; HAS JURISDICTION OVER **46** TYPES OF ACTIONS.

2. RECORD KEEPER

- RETAINS, FILES, PROCESSES, MANAGES AND IS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INTEGRITY OF EVERY CASE FILED; MAINTAINS **EVIDENCE**.

3. ADMINISTRATOR

- ISSUES SUMMONS AND SUBPOENAS; SETS UP THE COURT FILE; DOCKETS AND INDEXES CASE FILES

4. LEADER

- SUPERVISES AND MANAGES OVER 2,620 EMPLOYEES STATEWIDE (43% OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH)
- ONLY STATE IN THE COUNTRY WITH THE ELECTED CLERK AS A PROBATE JUDGE.

5. COMPTROLLER

- RECEIVES, INVESTS AND DISBURSES FUNDS COLLECTED FROM COURT RELATED ACTIVITY.



NC CLERK WORKGROUP ON HANDLING EVIDENCE



CASES LIKE THE MIKE PETERSON TRIAL AND CLERKS OFFICES NOT HAVING PROPER TRAINING OR STORAGE FACILITIES FOR CERTAIN TYPES OF BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE LEAD TO QUESTIONS FROM JUDICIAL STAKEHOLDERS...

...NORTH CAROLINA HAS INITIATED A WORKING GROUP ON HANDLING EVIDENCE...

...WE WILL NOW TAKE A LOOK AT:

***WHO** – THE MAKEUP OF THE COMMITTEE*

***WHERE/WHEN** – TIMING OF COMMITTEE WORK*

***WHY** – WHAT BROUGHT ON THIS WORK*

***WHAT** – WHAT THE COMMITTEE IS DOING*

***HOW** – HOW THE GROUP MAKES A DIFFERENCE*



Our Mission:



*THE CLERK SUBCOMMITTEE ON HANDLING EVIDENCE WILL **GATHER** AND **ANALYZE** INFORMATION ABOUT THE EXISTING LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND PRACTICE REALITY OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR CLERKS TO HANDLE EVIDENCE IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS WITH THE GOAL OF **DEVELOPING ENHANCED RESOURCES** AND **TRAINING** FOR CLERKS TO COMPLY WITH THE LAW AND MOVE TOWARD **BEST PRACTICES**, WITH A SPECIFIC FOCUS ON THE HANDLING OF BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE.*



WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE EVIDENCE IN THE MIKE PETERSON CASE??

- Durham, NC 2016 -- *Mike Peterson, who won freedom from a murder conviction after raising doubts about the work and testimony of a state blood analyst, now contends he should not have to go through a second trial because the Durham County Clerk of Superior Court's office mishandled evidence in his case.*



- Defense attorneys described the chaos in which they found evidence – stored in boxes in police offices and the Durham County Clerk's office. Garbage was on a sweatshirt. Notes from another case were mixed in the boxes, and envelopes with “biohazard” labels on them had broken seals that left the evidence open to possible contamination.
- Peterson's lawyers wanted to test or retest evidence. They questioned why Kathleen Peterson's clothes were diverted from State Bureau of Investigation labs for DNA testing to the blood splatter area where an agent worked who was forced out of his job several years ago due to problems with some of his cases.
- Could the Clerk's office have handled this better? Tools? Training? Space? Stakeholders?



- The Hon. Jim Mixson, Iredell County CSC and Chair (NC Department of Public Safety prior to serving as Clerk)
- The Hon. Archie Smith, Durham County CSC (Known for the “Mike Peterson” case)
- The Hon. Ray Matusko, Currituck County CSC (Former Forensics Specialist)
- The Hon. Lisa Scales, Cumberland County CSC (Former Register of Deeds)
- The Hon. Caroline Quinn, Wilson County CSC (Former Assistant District Attorney)
- Jamie Lassiter, Conference of Clerks of Superior Court (Legislative Policy Analyst; Former Courtroom Clerk)
- Shellie Vernon, Conference of Clerks of Superior Court (Former Courtroom Clerk in Felony District Court)
- Jacqui Greene, UNC School of Government
- Meredith Smith, UNC School of Government
- Jordan Samuel, [NC Administrative Office of the Courts](#) Director of Internal Audits (Audits evidence rooms)
- Lorrie Dollar, NC Administrative Office of the Courts Director of Training & Development
- NC Administrative Office of the Courts Training/Org Development/Design Team
- NC Administrative Office of the Courts Legal Counsel (2)
- NC District Attorneys and Public Defenders (as requested)
- NC State Crime Lab Assistant Director
- NC State Crime Lab Quality Manager
- Tim Culp, Executive Director of the NC Association for Property & Evidence (Law Enforcement)
- Lindsey Guice Smith, Executive Director of the [NC Innocence Inquiry Commission](#)

LIST OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS



WHEN/WHERE HAVE WE MET...

- **April 2019** – NC Administrative Office of the Courts
- **June 2019** – NC State Crime Lab (Behind the Scenes Tour of the Storage of Evidence)
- **September 2019** – Cumberland County, NC Courthouse, Courtroom and Evidence Room
- **October 2019** – NIST Conference Presentation (Gaithersburg, MD)



WHAT IS THE COMMITTEE WORKING ON ...



- **Objective:** Through a working group led by the clerks of superior court in partnership with the NC Administrative Office of the Courts & UNC SOG:
 - **Develop written guides and training tools** for use by the clerks of superior court on handling evidence, including DNA and biological evidence.
 - **Review and update Chapter 52** of the NC Clerk of Superior Court Procedures Manual on handling evidence.
 - Produce **online module** that explains & provides information on how to use written materials & training tools.
 - Pilot **tracking systems** for evidence storage rooms and evidence logs for better disposition methods.
 - Adopt better **storage spaces/containers**.
 - Provide **language** for NC Supreme Court Rules



BACKGROUND/ITEMS TO WORK ON...



NC WORKGROUP ON HANDLING EVIDENCE:

WHAT IS THE CLERK'S ROLE AND WHERE IS THERE MISSING GUIDANCE?

- Follows general guidance from the Clerk of Superior Court Procedures Manual (Chapter 52).
 - Provides info on North Carolina General Statutes & legislative changes (ex: preservation of biological evidence)
 - Chapter 8C of the NCGS – Official Evidence Code.
- The Clerk's role as official custodian is established in our NC General Rules of Practice set by the NC Supreme Court (Rule 14). *(It is only two paragraphs)*



THE BASIC DUTY: CLERK AS CUSTODIAN OF EXHIBITS CONT'D



- Rule 14 applies in any cause/proceeding *“unless ordered by the court”*.
- Rule 14 makes the CLERK *“responsible for exhibits safekeeping and availability for use as needed at all adjourned sessions of the court and for appeal”*.
- **THE COURT (JUDGE) HAS COMPLETE DISCRETION TO ORDER ALTERNATE CUSTODY OF EXHIBITS.**



DISPOSITION OF EVIDENCE – LACK OF TICKLER SYSTEM



- Rule 14 sets guidelines for disposition:
 - Timeline for removing models, diagrams, exhibits or materials that were offered into evidence and received by the clerk by the party offering them except as otherwise directed by the court, required within 30 days after final judgment in the trial court if no appeal is taken.
 - If the case is appealed, its 60 days after certification of final decision from appellate division.
 - If party offering an exhibit does not remove such article, the clerk shall write the attorney of record or party offering “calling attention to the provisions of this rule”.
 - If articles are not removed within 30 days after mailing notice, they may be disposed by the clerk.



DISPOSITION OF EVIDENCE CONT'D

- Exhibits are returned to the “offering party”.
 - *Exceptions: Criminal exhibits flagged by the court as biological evidence are returned to the “collecting agency”. [\(In NCGS 15A-268\(a4\)\)](#)*
- “Dispose” does not require destruction but typically interpreted as “destroy”.
- Unclaimed valuable exhibits (cash, jewelry, etc) should be escheated.



DISPOSITION OF EVIDENCE CONT'D

- Disposing of most evidence does NOT require an order of the court (*Except in Statutes*).
- Exhibits that require a court order (Clerk should still start with Rule 14):
 - *Weapons*
 - *Controlled substances*
 - *Alcoholic beverages*
 - *Exhibits flagged as “biological”*
- If party fails to retrieve exhibits in above categories, then the clerk needs a court order to dispose of evidence.
- **NC GENERAL STATUTES OVERRIDE CLERKS’ FINAL DISPOSITION AUTHORITY IN RULE 14 HERE.**



DISPOSITION OF EVIDENCE REQUIRING COURT ORDERS

DISPOSITION OF BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE (INCLUDES NOTICE AND PETITION & ORDER FORMS)

[GS 15A-268](#) requires long-term retention of “biological” exhibits in criminal cases.

Statutes set out specific process for early disposition.

Long term retention **ONLY** applied **upon conviction** of qualifying offense and ONLY if **court designates** an exhibit as “biological” in cases since 12/2019.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Drugs are generally ordered forfeit and destroyed under [GS 90-112](#) (no form)

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Disposition of alcohol & other seized items depends on case’s disposition - [GS 18B-503](#) (2 forms)

OTHER SEIZED PROPERTY

Not a special category of evidence for clerk’s purposes. Separated with intent to clarify that the **clerk DOES NOT** take custody of property seized by LEAs, unless offered or admitted into evidence.

DISPOSITION OF WEAPON DEPENDS ON KIND OF WEAPON AND CASE’S DISPOSITION

Conviction of any weapon under [GS 14-269.1](#) (form)

Firearms under [GS 15-11.1](#) (form)

Wildlife violations under [GS 113-137](#) (no form)



MANAGING EVIDENCE STORAGE

EXHIBIT RETENTION AS AN AUDIT ISSUE

- Significantly fewer findings since 2015 presentation to CSC Conference.

2008-2015		2015-Present	
Inconsistent process to dispose of evidence	38%	No System to Return/Dispose Criminal Exhibits	11%
Inconsistent system to document evidence area contents	29%	No/Inaccurate System to Document Exhibits	16%
Unsecured evidence	20%	Criminal Exhibits not Secured	1%
Clerks with independent access	11%	[no findings]	--
Evidence not tagged/labeled	8%	Criminal Exhibits not Tagged/Labeled	2%
Disposition/forfeiture orders not followed	6%	[no findings]	--



MEETING REVIEWS – ADDRESS WHAT IS LACKING

Topics Addressed:

- Existing Resources/Guidelines
 - NC Rules of Court – Rule 14 Custody and Disposition of Evidence at Trial
 - Statutory Exceptions: Preservation of biological evidence; deadly weapons; alcoholic beverages; controlled substances; other seized property
- Clerk role & responsibilities as custodian
- Internal Rules of Recordkeeping procedures
- Types of biological evidence & preservation
- State Crime lab required guidelines handling
- Clerks manual (secure evidence room; forms)
- Exhibit integrity/location – identification, witnessing contents prior to sealing, etc; potential biohazards labeled; known locations; computerized databases of exhibits; access to record/IT databases
- Storage location – secured; after hrs monitoring; log of access and visitors; proper ventilation
- Inspections/Accountability – routine inventories; spot checks; process/notification system if something is missing
- Post-trial Inspection Procedures – universal precautions; minimize cross-contamination; record
- Disposition – returned; destroyed



WHERE WE GO FROM HERE...

- Revised Work plan:
 - Develop a **Handling Evidence Toolkit** with **at least four** components:
 1. Courtroom tools (receipt, marking biological, chart)
 2. Storage/tracking tools (materials list, tracking system – excel, environmental considerations, step by step set up of an evidence room)
 3. Removal and disposal tools (process for return of evidence, forms, mandatory retention periods, appropriate disposal methods)
 4. Plus, instructions on how to use/implement the toolkit (separate needed for bioevidence)
 - NC Administrative Office of the Courts –
 - Develop **online training/modules** based on toolkit plus additional OSHA training and update courtroom procedures training to include more on evidence handling.
 - Coordinate with County/Local Officials –
 - Set guidelines/provide best practices for court construction standards for evidence purposes; provide talking points (rooms, access, temperature control, storage units, etc.)
 - Begin looking at local rules and what is needed to cover the clerk if the facility does not meet evidence needs. (Clerk could point back to somewhere to not having a fridge and what to do).

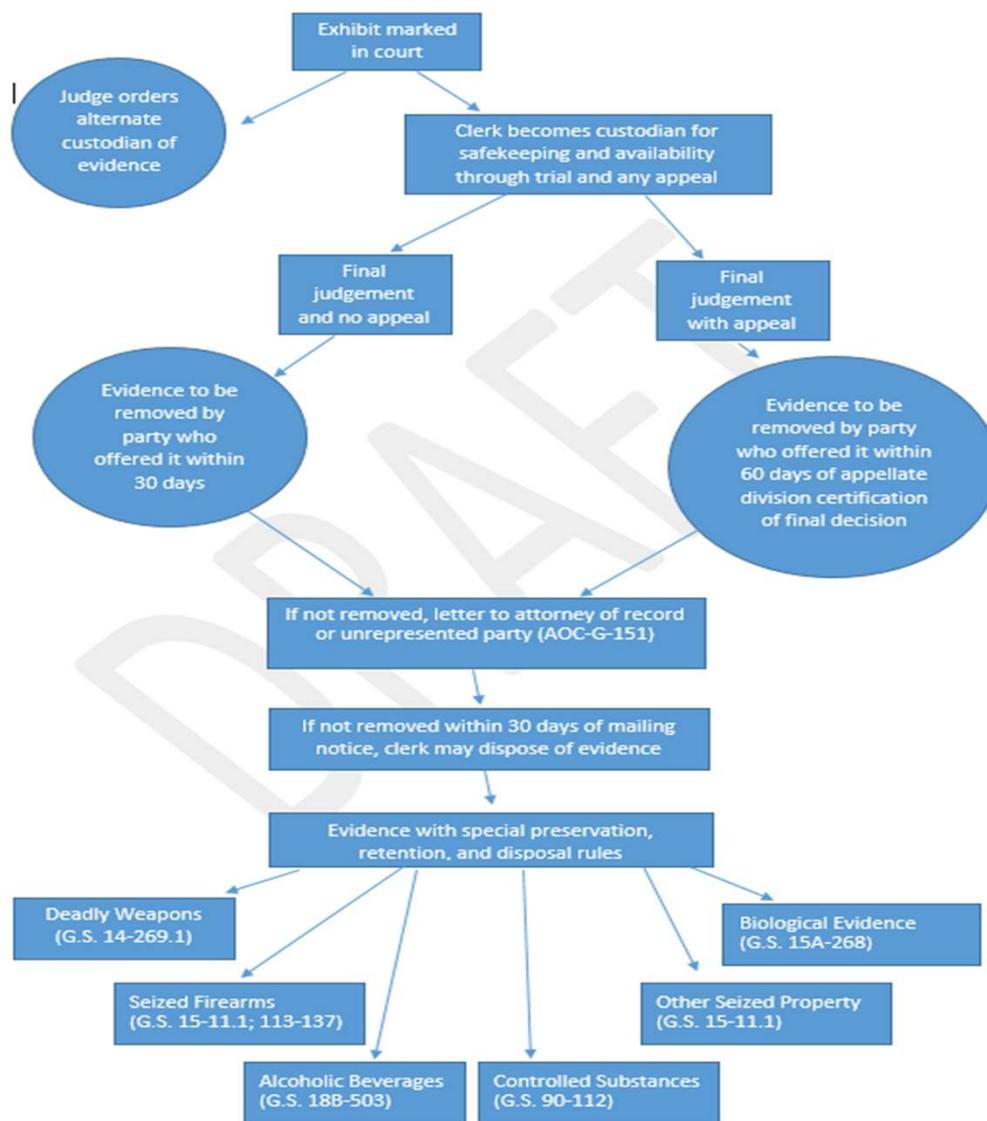


TOOLS/STEPS BEING CREATED...

1. Courtroom tools
2. Storage/tracking tools
3. Removal and disposal tools
4. Instructions



**SAMPLE FLOW
CHART FOR
COURTROOM**
(DRAFTED BY UNC SOG)



*DRAFT from the
UNC SOG for Use in
the Courtroom by the
Judge/Clerk*



COURTROOM EVIDENCE CONSIDERATIONS



DESIGNATION OF EVIDENCE

Should this evidence be designated as biological?

- When physical evidence is offered or admitted into evidence:
 - Court should inquire of the State and the defendant as to:
1) the identity of the collecting agency and 2) whether evidence is reasonably likely to contain biological evidence and, if so, if that biological evidence is relevant to establishing the perpetrator's identity.
 - If court finds the evidence may have biological evidentiary value, court should instruct the evidence to be designated as biological evidence.



STORAGE CAPACITY

Is there adequate capacity to store this evidence?

- Is there sufficient secure, climate controlled and dry space to hold the evidence in the courthouse?
- Does the evidence require any special storage capacity? If so, does that special capacity exist?



→ See evidence storage chart



CUSTODIAN OF ADMITTED EVIDENCE

Unless the judge orders an alternate custodian, the **Clerk becomes the custodian of admitted evidence.**

- Role of custodian requires **safekeeping** and **capacity** to keep evidence available through trial and any appeal



TRANSPORTATION OF EVIDENCE

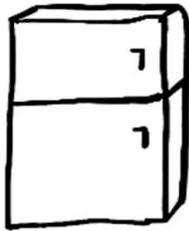
Is the evidence being handled properly when transported to and from court?

- Direct handling should be **minimized** as much as possible
- Any direct handling should be done with **latex or nitrile gloves** that are changed between each piece of evidence
- **Reseal evidence in original packaging**
- Swabs or DNA extraction tubes should **remain sealed**

Evidence Storage Requirements

Existing courthouse capacity? Yes No

Frost Free Freezer



70°F



Room Temperature

Room Temperature, Dry and not exposed to light



SHOULD NOT be kept in airtight, plastic containers



In sealed container amenable to freezing

ALL EVIDENCE SHOULD BE IN:

① Locked facility or cabinet in a locked area



② Fireproof or waterproof area, if possible



up to 20 feet

TYPE OF EVIDENCE



DNA Evidence containing tissue, bone, hair roots



Exhibits containing dried blood



Dried DNA extracts

Piloting County Evidence Tracking Systems (4+ counties)

- Will provide a model for ICMS
- Will provide a “tickler” system missing

EVIDENCE LIST

Case Number	Exhibit Number	Room	Row/Cabinet	Shelf/Drawer	Box	Final Disposition of Case	Post-disposition storage length	Ready for Disposal Notice	Notice Sent	Ready for Disposal
14-CS-10877	S1	Storage 1	Row 1	2	1	8/15/2017	180	Yes	11/1/2018	Yes
14-CS-10877	S2	Storage 1	Row 1	2	1	8/15/2017	180	Yes	11/1/2018	Yes
14-CS-10877	S3	Storage 3	Bulk			8/15/2017	180	Yes	11/1/2018	Yes
14-CS-10877	D1	Storage 1	Row 1	2	1	8/15/2017	180	Yes	11/1/2018	Yes
14-CS-10877	D2	Storage 1	Row 1	2	1	8/15/2017	180	Yes	11/1/2018	Yes
18-CV-00014	S1	Storage 2	Cabinet 3	1	2	5/15/2019	180	No		No
19-CS-21789	S1	Storage 3	Row 4	3	5	6/1/2019	Forever	No		No
19-CS-21789	S2	Storage 3	Row 4	3	5	6/1/2019	Forever	No		No
19-CS-21789	D1	Storage 3	Cabinet 2	5	1	6/1/2019	Forever	No		No
19-CS-21789	D2	Storage 3	Cabinet 2	5	1	6/1/2019	Forever	No		No
19-CS-21789	D3	Storage 3	Cabinet 2	5	1	6/1/2019	Forever	No		No
19-CS-21789	D4	Storage 3	Cabinet 2	5	1	6/1/2019	Forever	No		No
19-CS-21789	D5	Storage 3	Cabinet 2	5	1	6/1/2019	Forever	No		No
18-CS-10578	S1	Storage 2	Cabinet 1	4	3	12/1/2018	180	Yes	5/30/2019	No
18-CS-10578	S2	Storage 2	Cabinet 1	4	3	12/1/2018	180	Yes	5/30/2019	No
18-CS-10578	S3	Storage 2	Row 3	1	5	12/1/2018	180	Yes	5/30/2019	No
18-CS-10578	D1	Storage 2	Cabinet 1	4	3	12/1/2018	180	Yes	5/30/2019	No



MORE OPTIONS FOR ORGANIZING EVIDENCE

Request for U-Line items for purchase from the NCAOC Online Supply Store



- *Currently no evidence storage guidelines based on existing capacity. Could look at:*
- Differently-sized boxes and envelopes.
- Potentially recommending to all 100 counties a specific set of standard packaging sizes to have available (a banker's box, a handgun-sized box, a rifle box, etc.).
- Look at color coding evidence based on type of content characteristics



Barcode Labels and Printers



Custom Printed Labels



Retail Marking Labels



D.O.T. Labels and Placards



Magnetic Labels



Mailing Labels



Label Dispensers



Plastic Label Holders



WORK ON SECURING EVIDENCE ROOMS

- Not vulnerable to intrusion (vault, safe, no rooms with drop ceilings)
- Pinpads
- Access only cards (no master keys) (no solo entry)
- QR codes for tracking evidence locations and in/out logs.
- All entries logged: who when why
- No trace of logs on shared drive. Secured servers.

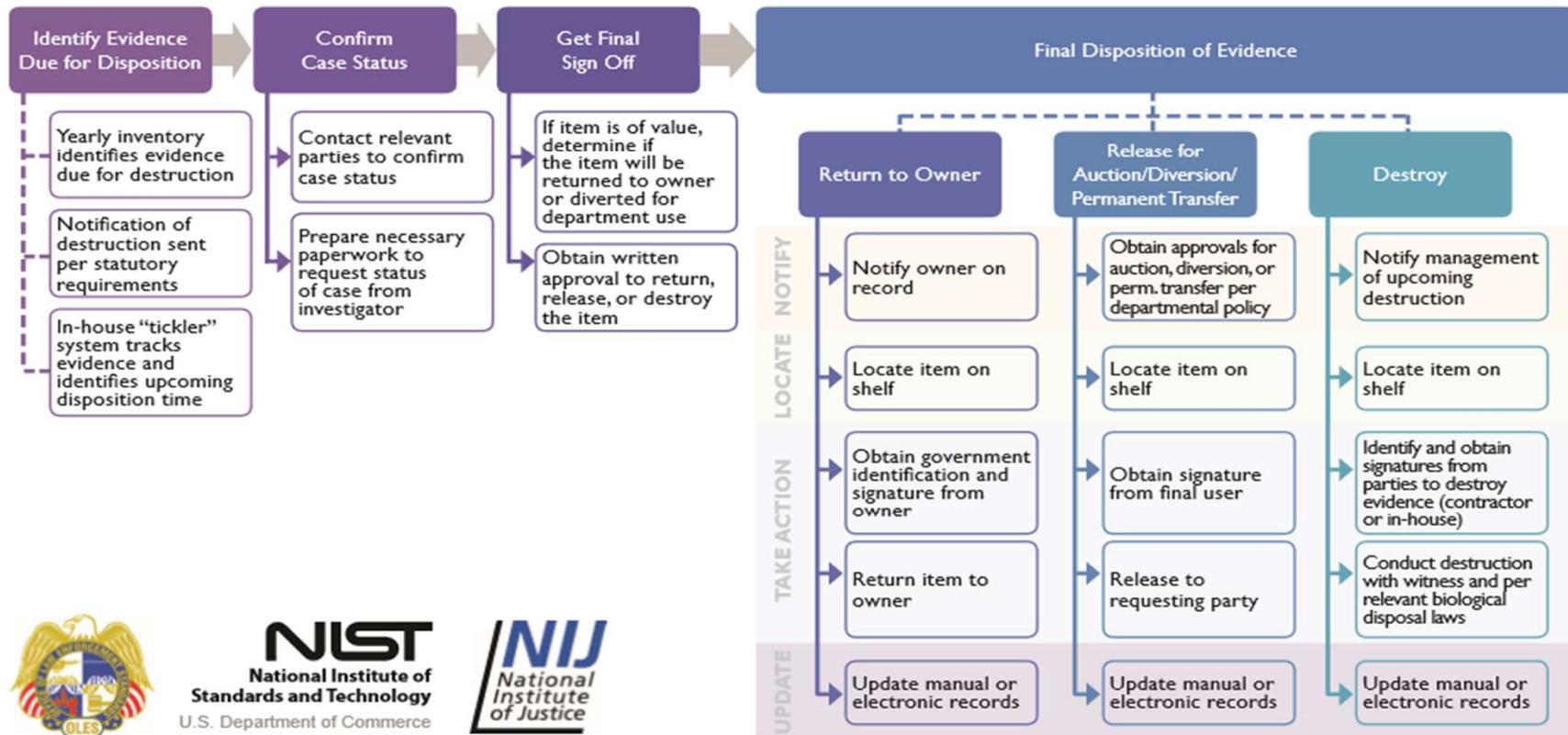


Sample - Evidence Storage Requirements (Drafted and under review for use by UNC SOG)

<u>TYPE OF EVIDENCE</u>	<u>STORAGE REQUIREMENTS</u>	<u>EXISTING COURTHOUSE CAPACITY?</u>
DNA EVIDENCE CONTAINING TISSUE, BONE, HAIR ROOTS	FROST FREE FREEZER	NO
DNA EXTRACTS RETURNED TO LIQUID FORM	FROST FREE FREEZER	NO
EXHIBITS CONTAINING DRIED BLOOD	SHOULD NOT BE KEPT IN AIRTIGHT, PLASTIC CONTAINERS	YES
EXHIBITS NOT COMPLETELY DRY (SOFT TISSUE, BLOOD)	IN SEALED CONTAINER AMENDABLE TO FREEZING	NO
EXHUMED BONE NOT CONTAINING TISSUE AND/OR BONE MARROW	ROOM TEMPERATURE	YES
TEETH	ROOM TEMPERATURE	YES
DRIED DNA EXTRACTS	ROOM TEMPERATURE, DRY & NOT EXPOSED TO LIGHT	YES
SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE COLLECTION KITS	ROOM TEMPERATURE	YES
LIQUID BLOOD SAMPLES ALREADY PROCESSED BY CRIME LAB IN NON-TOXICOLOGY CASES	ROOM TEMPERATURE	YES
ALL	LOCKED FACILITY/CABINET IN LOCKED AREA	YES
ALL	FIREPROOF & WATERPROOF AREA, IF POSSIBLE	UP TO 20 SQUARE FEET

BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE DISPOSITION PROCESS

Technical Working Group on Biological Evidence Preservation



NIST
National Institute of
Standards and Technology
U.S. Department of Commerce



For additional guidance on biological evidence disposition, please reference
The Biological Evidence Preservation Handbook: Best Practices for Evidence Handlers
 (http://www.nist.gov/manuscript-publication-search.cfm?pub_id=913699).

OTHER RESOURCES (IN ADDITION TO NIST)

NC Association for Property & Evidence

- 251 members statewide from 46 counties, 87 cities, 8 colleges & 15 assorted other entities.
- Training topics include: Best Practices on Management of Currency; Sexual Assault Tracking System-STIMS; Evidence Room Security; Ethics and Bias; Courtroom Testimony; Understanding the Gun Laws; Fentanyl Policy and Procedures; Audits and Inventories; Legal Updates; Court Orders



Changes to Rules/Guidelines to Look at...

- **Rule 14** – NC Supreme Court General Rules of Practice
 - Add language for “Upon request of the Clerk, the Court Shall” In regards for the disposition of evidence that is not physically able to be stored in the Clerks offices.
- **Clerks Procedural Manual**
 - Update based on recommendations and add language about storage requirements and what to do if storage internally is not an option.
- **Rules of Recordkeeping**
- **General Statutes** – Should the Clerk even handle biohazardous/biological items?
- **NCAOC Training**
 - Incorporate training on handling, storing and disposing of evidence.
 - OSHA training requirement
 - Include additional references to evidence in Criminal Courtroom Procedure Class



WHERE WE GO FROM HERE...

MEETING DATE	TOOL	OTHER SUBJECTS
EARLY 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafts for Review re: Storage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Materials list ○ Tracking system pilot counties ○ “How to set up an evidence room” + environmental considerations • Drafts for Review re: Disposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Process to Return Flow Chart ○ Methods of Disposal if Not Returned ○ Mandatory retention guide ○ Address AOC forms changes, if any • Finalize Drafts re: Courtroom Receipt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform packaging options
APRIL 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize Drafts re: Storage • Finalize Drafts re: Disposal • Draft for Review: Instructions for using the Toolkit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider/discuss AOC training plan
JUNE 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize toolkit + instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Chapter 52 of CSC Manual revisions



#2 ELDER ABUSE AND FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION



NCCCCSC PROJECT TO BETTER SERVE VICTIMS OF ELDER ABUSE AND FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

- Governor's Crime Commission funded grant from 2017-2019
 - Victims of Crime Act Funding – Underserved Populations

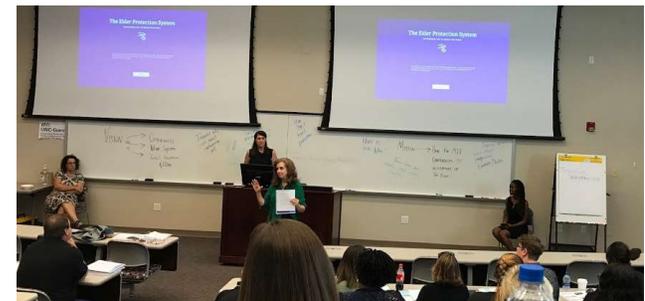
The Clerk's office may very well be the first place that signs of abuse are going on from family members, caretakers, etc. It is important to catch these "red flags" as soon as possible.

- In response to lack of guidance/training on handling signs and symptoms of elder abuse and/or financial exploitation in response to:
 - Probate cases
 - Incompetency proceedings
 - Guardianship hearings
 - Criminal/civil cases dispositions (or lack there of)



NCCCCSC PROJECT TO BETTER SERVE VICTIMS OF ELDER ABUSE AND FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

- Partner with the UNCSOG
 - **Legal Framework for North Carolina's Elder Protection System (Best Practices Manual)**
 - 200+ page manual intended to provide a base of information to help different public officials work together as part of a coherent whole to address cases involving suspected elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation.
 - **Develop Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs)**
 - Connect the “missing links/relationships”
 - **PowerPoint** - a PowerPoint presentation intended for use by clerks and other professionals to enable them to go out in the community and raise awareness about elder abuse



NCCCCSC PROJECT TO BETTER SERVE VICTIMS OF ELDER ABUSE AND FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

- **Website** – multi-faceted website with four main components:
 - (i) *resource hub* that will host the manual and tools,
 - (ii) a *community forum* intended to help users ask and answer questions related to elder abuse in NC, reporting scams,
 - (iii) a *professionals map* that is intended to highlight and help locate other professionals working in the field of elder abuse in NC,
 - (iv) a *multidisciplinary team* (MDT) space for each county in the state to use to administer their respective MDTs



NCCCSC PROJECT TO BETTER SERVE VICTIMS OF ELDER ABUSE AND FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

● Tools –

- **Bench Card for Clerks of Superior Court** – this bench card provides information to help clerks identify, prevent, and respond to elder abuse in their courthouses and their community.
- **Public Brochure** – this brochure is for the purpose of providing information to the public about how to identify and respond to cases of suspected elder abuse; it may be used by clerks to disseminate information to citizens who appear in their courthouses with concerns about elder abuse.
- **Roadmap** – a master view of the components of NC's elder protection system and the connection points in the system; this tool will be a companion to the manual on the web intended to help navigate the manual content.
- **Information Sharing Tool** – a summary of the rules governing information sharing in APS, criminal and guardianship cases
- **Power of Attorney Termination Flow Chart** –tool helps guide guardians on how to respond when appointed guardian in cases where there is an existing power of attorney
- **Financial Institution Reporting Guide** – this guide is intended to help financial institutions understand their reporting obligations related to cases of suspected elder abuse.



NCCCCSC PROJECT TO BETTER SERVE VICTIMS OF ELDER ABUSE AND FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

- **Webinar** – this webinar is intended to provide information related to the manual, tools, website, and PowerPoint presentation and other resources provided by the grant
- **Hold workshop** for 7 counties (Sept. 2019) – a two-day workshop intended to help facilitate the creation and implementation of MDTs across the state
- Attend trainings from:
 - National Institute of Crime Prevention
 - *The Aging Process*
 - *Forms of Dementia*
 - *Alzheimer's Disease*
 - *Types of Elder Abuse*
 - National College of Probate Judges
 - National Guardianship Association



#3 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EFFORTS



NCCCSC PROJECT TO BETTER SERVE VICTIMS

- Governor's Crime Commission Funded Grant since 2016.
 - Victims of Crime Act Funding – Domestic Violence Specific
 - Created Domestic Violence Clerk Coordinator positions in the following counties (based on the number of civil filings per year):
 - Wake, Mecklenburg, Forsyth, Guilford, Cumberland, Buncombe, Brunswick, Gaston, Onslow, Cabarrus, Union, Johnston, Harnett, Henderson, Iredell, Catawba, Durham, New Hanover, Rockingham, Randolph, Robeson, Surry, Cleveland, Davidson
- Serves as the first in line to assist victims of domestic violence and coordinate with the local DV/SA agencies and their staff for a smoother court process.
- Many of these counties currently have DV e-Filing and these positions were integral in the success of the system in their counties.
- Reports additional data and specifics not currently include in court reporting (Age, Gender of Complainant, Petitioner information, Race, Disability, Veteran/Military, etc)



DV/SA TRAININGS PROVIDED

- Bystander Intervention in DV “How You Can Help”
- Drug and Alcohol Facilitated Sexual Assault
- The Effects of Trauma on Memory and Behavior
- Stalking/Cyber Stalking
- The Effects of Childhood Trauma in Later Years
- Identifying Signs of Strangulation
- Law Enforcement and Victim Service Providers’ Liability
- Domestic Violence in Law Enforcement and Military Families
- NCAOC Legislative Updates/DV Updates
- Do Batterer’s Intervention Programs Work?
- Family Related Homicide/Suicide Awareness and Prevention
- Making Sure that Orders for DV Protection Work
- Developing Coordinated Community Programs to Combat DV
- Preventing the Sexual Assault of Children
- Introduction to Human Trafficking
- Compassion Fatigue/Vicarious Related Trauma





THANK YOU

Jamie Lassiter, Executive Director

North Carolina Conference of Clerks of Superior Court

Jamie.L.Lassiter@nccourts.org (919) 890-1440

** All photography included in this presentation is provided from North Carolina news outlets and the North Carolina Judicial Branch Seal and Courtroom visits.

