Test Bank for Forensic Evidence Management From the Crime Scene to the Courtroom 1st Mozayani

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Chapter 2

1. What topics should a basic agency policy cover?

Statement of Purpose

Utilization and Deployment

Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures

Personnel Duties, Authority and Responsibility

Training and Development

Security

Inspections – Audits, Inventories, Refrigeration Standards and High Security Items

Records Management and Special Reporting

Release Guidelines

Disposal Guidelines

2. Describe chain-of-custody. What is its purpose?

The chronological tracking of possession and storage of an item from the time of collection, to the item's final disposition is called the chain-of-custody. Once an item is in the custody of a law enforcement agency, the chain begins and continues to be track as the item travels from officer to storage, from storage to lab for analysis, from lab to court, from court back to originating agencies, and ends with the items final disposal. Agency's track this information in order to prove an item has not been tampered with and will be available for prosecution.

3. What information needs to be captured at the time of collection for every incoming item? Where should this information be noted?

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Agency case number

Collected by

Date/time collected

Item numbers – A unique identifier for each item evidence collection list

Item description

Collection location

At a minimum, this information needs to be notated on the evidence collection list and the outer packaging of the item

4. What are some standard packaging materials for common items?

Adhesive tape (tamper proof tape)

Paper bags (various sizes)

Cardboard boxes (gun boxes, knife boxes etc.)

Paper envelopes (various sizes: 6 × 9 in., 9 × 12 in. and 11 × 15 in.)

Syringe and safety tubes

Metal cans (various sizes)

Plastic buckets (various sizes)

Integrity plastic bags (currency packaging)

Kraft paper (recommend using white paper only)

Warning labels (biohazard, fragile etc.)

5. What are the basic storage areas used and what is stored in each of them?

General storage shelves: controlled temperature items

Refrigerator/freezer units: blood, urine and tissue

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Bulk storage: carpets, TVs, furniture

Outside storage: bikes, gas powered tools, transient property

High security storage: drugs and weapons

Valuables safe: currency, counterfeit bills and jewellery

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