November 19, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Prosecutors

From: South Dakota Public Health Laboratory – Forensics

RE: **South Dakota Public Health Laboratory Forensic Evidence Destruction Notice**

The South Dakota Public Health Laboratory has the following policy for evidence retention:

Blood Samples are kept for **two years** from the date of submission.

Urine Samples are kept for **two years** from the date of submission.

Seized Drug Evidence is kept for **two years** from the date of submission.

A new request must be made every year to ensure the sample is not destroyed, if we are not contacted, we will destroy previously retained samples.

It is your agency's responsibility to contact the Forensic Case Managers to request continued retention of samples beyond the standard two-year submission period. If you would like for any previously retained sample to remain in storage, you will need to send a **new** request by **January 29th, 2027**. Any previously retained samples not requested to be kept by this date will be destroyed.

Please direct any retention requests to:

Grace.Campbell@state.sd.us or 605-773-3526

Vance.Flanigan@state.sd.us or 605-773-3640