



July 20, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Forensic Submitters

From: South Dakota Public Health Laboratory Director Timothy Southern  
South Dakota Public Health Laboratory Deputy Director Stacy Ellwanger

RE: **South Dakota Public Health Laboratory Forensic Evidence Retention**

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.

If you need any evidence retained for longer than the destruction date, please contact the South Dakota Public Health Laboratory via email [Lona.HaasBoyer@state.sd.us](mailto:Lona.HaasBoyer@state.sd.us) . **If a case is still pending more than two years from the date of submission, a new request must be made every year to ensure the sample is not destroyed.**

Please call with any questions or concerns.