

Newly Collected Rape Kit Handling Legislation

Mandatory testing of rape kits is key to ensuring a backlog never happens again.

This chart examines state laws requiring the testing of newly collected kits across criteria established by Joyful Heart Foundation's model rape kit reform [legislation](#).

Rape Kit Handling Legislation Check Chart (valid as of 2/2026)

State	Hospitals: notify LEA within ____Hours/Days	LEA: pick up within ____ days	LEA: submit kit to lab for analysis __days after pickup	State crime lab: test within ____days	Allow crime labs to outsource if unable to meet deadline
Alaska			30 days	6 months	
Arizona	48 hours	5 business days	15 business days		Yes
Arkansas		3 days	15 days	60 days	
California			20 days	120 days	Implied in the law
Colorado			21 days		
Connecticut		¹	10 days	60 days	
Delaware			30 days	90 days	Yes
Florida			30 days	120 days	
Georgia		96 hours	30 days		
Hawai'i	24 hours	3 business days	25 days ²	90 days	
Idaho			30 days	90 days	
Illinois	4 hours	5 days	10 days	6 months	Outsource as needed
Indiana ³		48 hours			
Kansas			30 days		
Kentucky	24 hours	5 days	30 days	60 days	
Louisiana ⁴		72 hours			
Maryland		30 days ⁵	30 days		

¹ Connecticut law states that law enforcement has 10 days to pick up the kit and drop it off at the lab.

² Hawaii law requires law enforcement to send a written request to lab within 15 business days, and submit the kit within 10 business days.

³ Indiana does not have a law to mandate the testing of newly collected kits, however, has the law enforcement pick up timeline above.

⁴ Louisiana does not have a law to mandate the testing of newly collected kits, however, has the law enforcement pick up timeline above.

⁵ Maryland law states that a kit shall be transferred to a law enforcement agency within 30 days.

Massachusetts	24 hours	3 days	7 days	30 days	
Michigan	24 hours	14 days	14 days	90 days	
Minnesota		10 days	60 days		
Mississippi	4 hours	24 hours	7 days	45 days	Yes
Missouri		14 days	14 days		
Montana	24 hours	5 days	30 days		
Nevada			30 days	120 days	
New Jersey	24 hours	3 business days	10 days		
New Mexico			30 days	180 days	
New York			10 days	90 days	
North Carolina	24 hours	7 days	45 days		
Ohio			30 days		
Oklahoma			20 days		
Oregon	7 days	7 days	14 days		
Pennsylvania		72 hours	15 days	6 months ⁶	
Rhode Island	24 hours	⁷	30 days ⁷	30 days	Yes
South Dakota	24 hours	14 days	14 days	90 days	
Tennessee	24 hours	7 days	30 days		
Texas		7 or 14 days ⁸	30 days	90 days	Outsource as needed
Utah		1 day	30 days		
Virginia			60 days		
Washington			30 days	45 days	
Washington, D.C.			7 days	90 days	
West Virginia		⁹	30 days ⁹		
Wisconsin	24 hours	72 hours	14 days	6 months	

⁶ Pennsylvania law requires the laboratory to test rape kits within 6 months "if possible".

⁷ In Rhode Island, kits are directly transferred from the hospital to the laboratory within ten days of collection, without law enforcement involvement.

⁸ Texas law states that law enforcement must pick up a kit within 7 days, unless the hospital where the sample was taken is more than 100 miles away, in which case the time limit is 14 days.

⁹ In West Virginia, the law requires medical facilities to drop kits off directly at the lab, without law enforcement involvement.