

# RAPE KIT FORENSIC:ID



There are approximately 110,000 reported sexual assaults in the U.S. each year, and more than 220,000 rape kits remain untested nationwide. DNA has proven to produce significant results in a high percentage of sexual assault cases tested.

Limited resources at public crime labs have created a backlog of sexual assault kits. This backlog has resulted in slow turnaround times that allow a perpetrator to remain at large. Most reported assaults are stranger rapes and therefore no-suspect offenses. The use of DNA can result in immediate CODIS hits yielding a suspect in cases where none previously existed and will frequently connect serial offenses

With our Rape Kit DNA Program, Orchid Cellmark offers DNA analysis in every sexual assault case, as well as training of law enforcement and medical personnel in evidence collection and preservation procedures. We also offer guidance on the establishment of systems and procedures as well as serving as expert witnesses to back up the results. Orchid Cellmark also provides the results in a format uploadable to the CODIS database, allowing other agencies to connect their cases to your suspects.

## The Facts

- Currently there are 110,000 reported sexual assaults in the US each year
- More than 220,000 rape kits remain untested nationally
- Sexual assaults are often committed in a serial manner
- Sexual offenders do not restrict their activities to sexual assault only
- Debbie Smith had to wait six years for her case to be resolved. Because of her ordeal, the Debbie Smith Bill passed on October 11, 2004 as part of the Justice for All Act of 2004. Funding of \$755 million over 5 years has been authorized under the Debbie Smith Backlog Grant Program to resolve 67,000 backlogged rape cases.

## The Orchid Cellmark Rape Kit DNA Program

- DNA analysis in every sexual assault case
- Training to law enforcement and medical personnel to ensure that the evidence is collected and preserved to ensure the best possible samples
- Guidance to set up an efficient procedure for submission of evidence for DNA testing
- DNA results in a format uploadable to the CODIS database
- Expert Witness Services to support our DNA results

## The Benefits

- Quick results will enhance your ability to solve sexual assault cases rapidly and remove the offender from the street thus preventing other sexual assaults
- DNA results will help to determine if crime is serial in nature, even if there is no suspect
- A solved case will bring rapid closure to the victim

For more information, contact Orchid Cellmark at: 1-800-USA-LABS (872-5227) in the US and 1-866-TEST-DNA (837-8362) in Canada or visit us online at [www.orchidcellmark.com](http://www.orchidcellmark.com)