

TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Forensic Services Division

Violent Crime Response Team Standard Operating Procedures
Collecting Items of Clothing



10. VCRT Procedures

10.32 Collecting Items of Clothing

10.32.1 Scope

This procedure provides general guidelines in the collection of items of clothing.

10.32.2 Definitions

Refer to VCRT 11.0 Definitions and Abbreviations

10.32.3 Chemicals and Reagents

None

10.32.4 Equipment and Supplies

Packaging materials
Camera

10.32.5 Procedure

Clothing will often contain additional items of evidence (i.e., blood, hair, fibers, etc.).

Requesting Clothing from Medical Examiner

Typically, victim clothing will be left on the victim and requested from the Medical Examiner when the autopsy is complete. Chain of custody and evidence submission guidelines will be observed.

Use the following guidelines when handling or collecting items of clothing:

- Photograph items of clothing. Refer to VCRT 2.5 Crime Scene Photography.
- Visually examine clothing for any trace evidence.
- Collect fragile trace evidence before transporting clothing to the Laboratory, when appropriate.

Clothing should be packaged in paper bags.

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Plastic bags can only be used temporarily when transporting wet or bloody clothing to the laboratory. Clothing should then be removed from the plastic bag and placed in a secure drying cabinet until such time it that can be entered into the Evidence Receiving Unit.

If a bloodstain pattern is observed on the clothing, preserve the bloodstains by placing a layer of paper or paper bags between the clothing folds.

Items of clothing shall be packaged in separate paper bags to prevent cross contamination. If the items of clothing are observed in a single pile, they may be packaged together.