

**TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
*Forensic Services Division*

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Violent Crime Response Team Standard Operating Procedures  
Collecting Items of Clothing

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**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.