

National Institute of Standards (NIST)

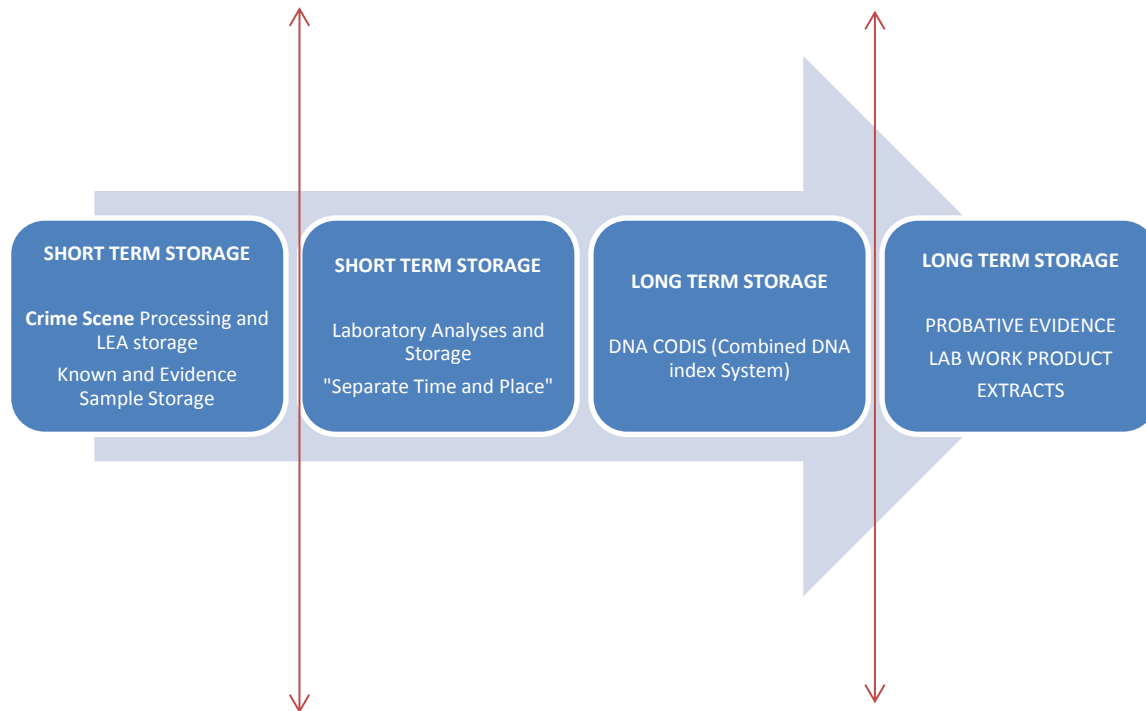
Considerations For Policy Makers

Refrigerated Forensic Evidence Systems Built For:

- Crime Scene Processing
- Short Term Storage
- Long Term Storage
- Security
- Temperature Monitoring
- Forced Air Circulation
- Stainless Steel Construction
- Environmentally Friendliness



RTF Evidence Storage Systems meet and exceed National Institute of Standards (NIST) Biological Evidence Preservation Considerations for Policy Makers: Crime Scene short term evidence storage (Pre Laboratory Analyses (short term) to Post Laboratory Analyses (Long Term) Freeze Dry



Excerpts from National Institute of Standards Biological Evidence Considerations for Policy Makers:

Recommendation 1:

Policy makers should define biological evidence as follows: "Evidence commonly recovered during a criminal investigation in the form of skin, hair, tissue, bones, teeth, blood, semen, or other bodily fluids, which may include samples of biological materials, or evidence items containing biological material."

Recommendation 2:

Policy makers in each state should establish statutes, rules, or policies that require the automatic retention of biological evidence by government entities from the time of collection through the recommended timeframes set forth in Table 3-1.

RTF meets and exceeds all requirements

Recommendation 3:

Policy makers in each state should, at a minimum, require the retention of evidence according to timetables set forth in in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1: Summary of Biological Evidence Retention Guidelines for Crime Categories

Crime Categories (NIBRS)	CASE STATUS			
	Open ⁵⁰	Charges Filed	Adjudicated	Unfounded/Refused/Denied/No Further Investigation
Homicide Offenses	Retain indefinitely	Retain indefinitely	At a minimum, retain for the length of	Dispose of upon receipt of authorization ⁵¹
Sexual Offenses	At a minimum, retain for the length of the statute of limitations [§]	Retain pending adjudication [§]	At minimum, retain for the length of incarceration	Dispose of upon receipt of authorization
Assault Offenses, Kidnapping/Abduction, Robbery			Dispose of upon receipt of authorization	
All Other Group A & B Offenses			Dispose of upon receipt of authorization	

RTF meets and exceeds all requirements

Recommendation 4:

Policy makers in each state should establish statutes, rules, or policies that require biological evidence be stored in appropriate environmental conditions, based on known scientific practices, **in order to prevent its loss, degradation, or contamination.**

Recommendation 5:

Policy makers in each state should designate an authority with a statutory bound responsibility, such as a statewide commission(s) or working group(s), to establish and enforce standards consistent with **best scientific practices for the proper retention, preservation, cataloging, and retrieval of biological evidence** applicable to criminal investigations, criminal prosecutions, and post-conviction proceedings.

RTF meets and exceeds all requirements

Recommendation 6:

A statewide commission, working group, or other authority, as described in Recommendation 5, should develop standards specifically pertaining to the disposition of bulk evidence (physical evidence that is of such a nature, size, or quantity that storage, preservation, or retention of all of the evidence is impractical). **At a minimum, these standards should direct law enforcement agencies and/or crime laboratories to remove and preserve portions of the evidence likely to contain biological evidence related to the offense, based upon the best scientific practices at the time of collection, to permit future forensic testing including DNA in a timely manner.**