

SAKI Arrest Press Release Template

Refer to this template when writing an arrest press release. Update the teal placeholder text with specific information about your agency or the sexual assault case.

[CITY OF PUBLICATION], [TWO-LETTER STATE ABBREVIATION]

On [Month] [date], [year], [Agency Name] arrested a [City of perpetrator's residence] [man/woman] in connection with the sexual assault of a [man/woman] [number] years ago at [Location] in [City], [State].

[Perpetrator's First and Last Names], age [age], of [City of perpetrator's residence] was charged with [number] counts of [specific charge(s)]. [He/she] is being held in [Facility Name] on \$[dollar amount] bail.

DNA evidence from the victim's sexual assault kit (SAK), also known as a rape kit, matched to [Perpetrator's Last Name]. This is the [number] arrest in [City Name] as part of a broader effort in [Jurisdiction Name] to test [number] previously unsubmitted sexual assault kits.

[Insert quotation from a top-ranking officer in charge of the case or the District Attorney; include the official's name and title after the quotation. Suggestions for topics to cover in this quotation include focusing on

- ♦ the regret about delayed justice for this victim and relief that the perpetrator has been identified; and/or
- ♦ the commitment that your jurisdiction will make to test every unsubmitted SAK to bring more offenders to justice, solve more cold cases, and bring justice to victims.]

[Agency Name] received a \$[dollar amount] grant in [grant year] to test its previously unsubmitted sexual assault kits. The U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance—through the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI)—awarded the grant. The award is part of a \$110-million-plus national SAKI effort supporting multiple

jurisdictions addressing sexual assault reform—including testing unsubmitted SAKs, investigating and prosecuting these cases, and supporting victims.

During a victim's medical forensic examination after a sexual assault, a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) or other medical professional gathers DNA evidence for a sexual assault kit; this evidence may include the suspect's blood, saliva, and/or semen taken from the victim's body. This evidence is gathered at a hospital or local rape crisis center. The SAK is then submitted to the crime laboratory for forensic testing to possibly identify the perpetrator(s).

Throughout the last several years, thousands of sexual assault kits across the country were not submitted for testing for a variety of reasons—including lack of resources, poor evidence tracking, and ineffective evidence submission policies and practices.

[Insert quotation from a top-ranking officer in charge of the case or the District Attorney; include the official's name and title after the quotation. Suggestions for topics to cover in this quotation include focusing on

- ♦ how your agency is joining other agencies across the country that are working to learn new strategies and techniques for investigating and prosecuting sexual assault, and/or
- ♦ how you and/or your agency is proud to be part of a national effort to increase safety in our communities and deliver justice to victims of sexual assault.]

For media inquiries, contact [your agency's phone number and/or e-mail address].

For more information about our work related to the SAKI effort, visit us online at [link to your agency's website] or stay connected with us through social media:

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/\[your agency's information\]](#)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/\[your agency's information\]](#)