

The Crime Scene



Locard's Exchange Principle

- When a person comes into contact with an object or another person, a cross-transfer of physical evidence can occur.
- The exchanged materials indicate that the two objects were in contact.
- The intensity, duration and nature of the materials in contact determine the extent of the transfer.

Crime Scene Locations



O. J. Simpson Case



Jonbenet Ramsey Case



2 Types of Crime Scenes

1. Primary Crime Scene – where the crime actually occurred.
2. Secondary Crime Scene – other areas related to the crime.

A man is shot in his living room. His killer then drags him out to the car, transports him to a wooded lot, and buries him there.

- Primary Crime Scene?
 - Victim's Living Room
- Secondary Crime Scene?
 - Rest of House
 - Outside House
 - Perps Car
 - Area between Perps car and place of burial
 - Grave

Sometimes investigations begin at the secondary crime scene and eventually the primary crime scene is identified.

Ex: Silence of the Lambs



Processing the Crime Scene

- Physical Evidence: objects at a crime scene that link a suspect or victim to a crime
- Physical Evidence must be properly recognized and preserved
- Collection and/or processing is dependent upon the type of crime and the availability of resources and personnel

Steps for Processing a Crime Scene

1. Secure and Isolate
2. Record the Scene
3. Conduct a Systematic Search
4. Collect and Package Physical Evidence
5. Maintain a Chain of Custody
6. Obtain Standard/Reference Samples
7. Lab Testing

Secure and Isolate

- Determine if a perp is present
- Coordinate medical assistance
 - Victims and perpetrators
- Exclude unauthorized persons
 - Ropes, barricades and guards



Record the Scene

1. Photography

- a. Record the unaltered condition.
- b. If evidence or objects are to be moved prior to photography it must be included in the report
- c. Record primary crime scene and surrounding areas (entry/exit areas)
- d. Multiple magnifications and angles
- e. Include a measuring scale
- f. Videotape

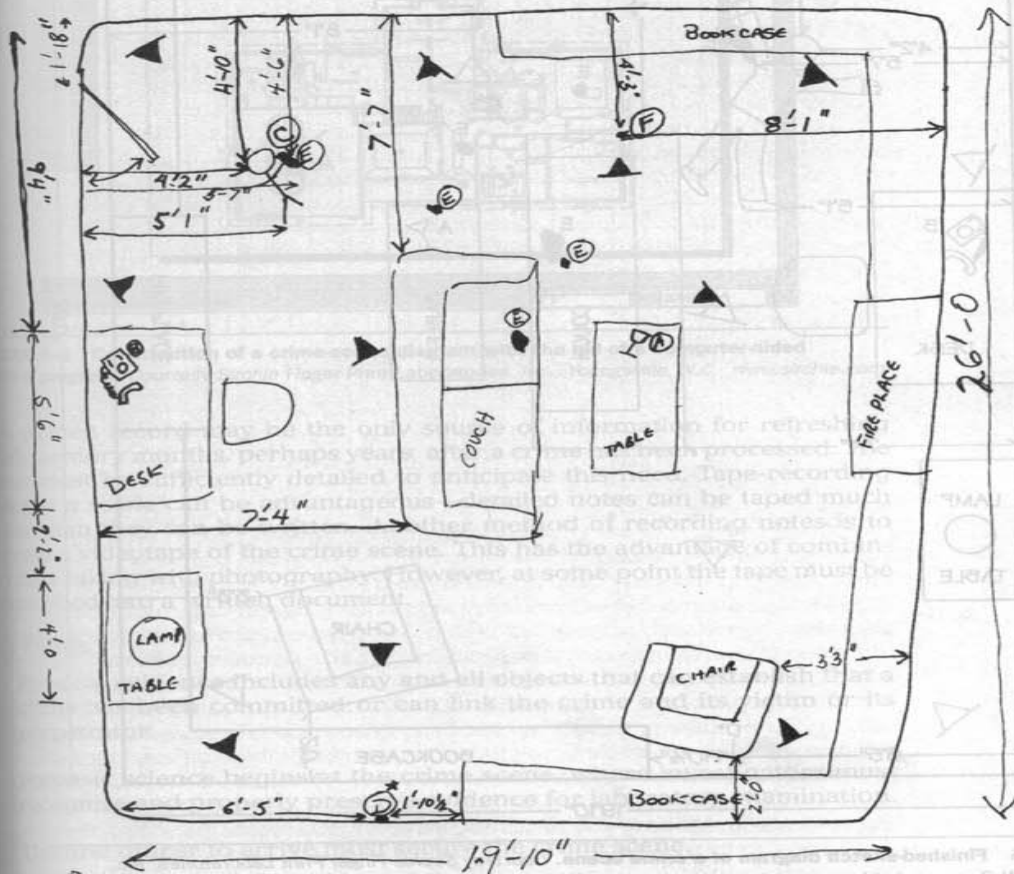
Record the Crime Scene

2. Sketches

- Rough Sketch
 - Scene Dimensions
 - Compass Headings
 - Location of objects
 - Use Tape Measure
 - Assign numbers or letters
 - Create a legend
- Finished Sketch
 - Hand Written
 - Computer Aided Drafting (CAD)

CASE: 10-789-96
 301 N. CENTRE ST.
 OCT. 6, 1996 11:40 PM
 HOMICIDE

VICTIM: LESTER W. BROWN
 INVESTIGATOR: SGT. L.A. DUFFY
 ASST BY: PTL. R.W. HICKS



LEGEND

- A = COCKTAIL GLASS
- B = TELEPHONE
- C = VICTIM
- D = BULLET HOLE
- E = BLOOD STAINS
- F = SHELL CASING
- ▲ = CAMERA LOCATIONS

* D 3'-4 3/4" FROM FLOOR

1/4" = 1 FOOT

FIGURE 2-4 Rough-sketched diagram of a crime scene. Courtesy Sirchie Finger Print Laboratories, Inc., Youngsville, N.C., www.sirchie.com

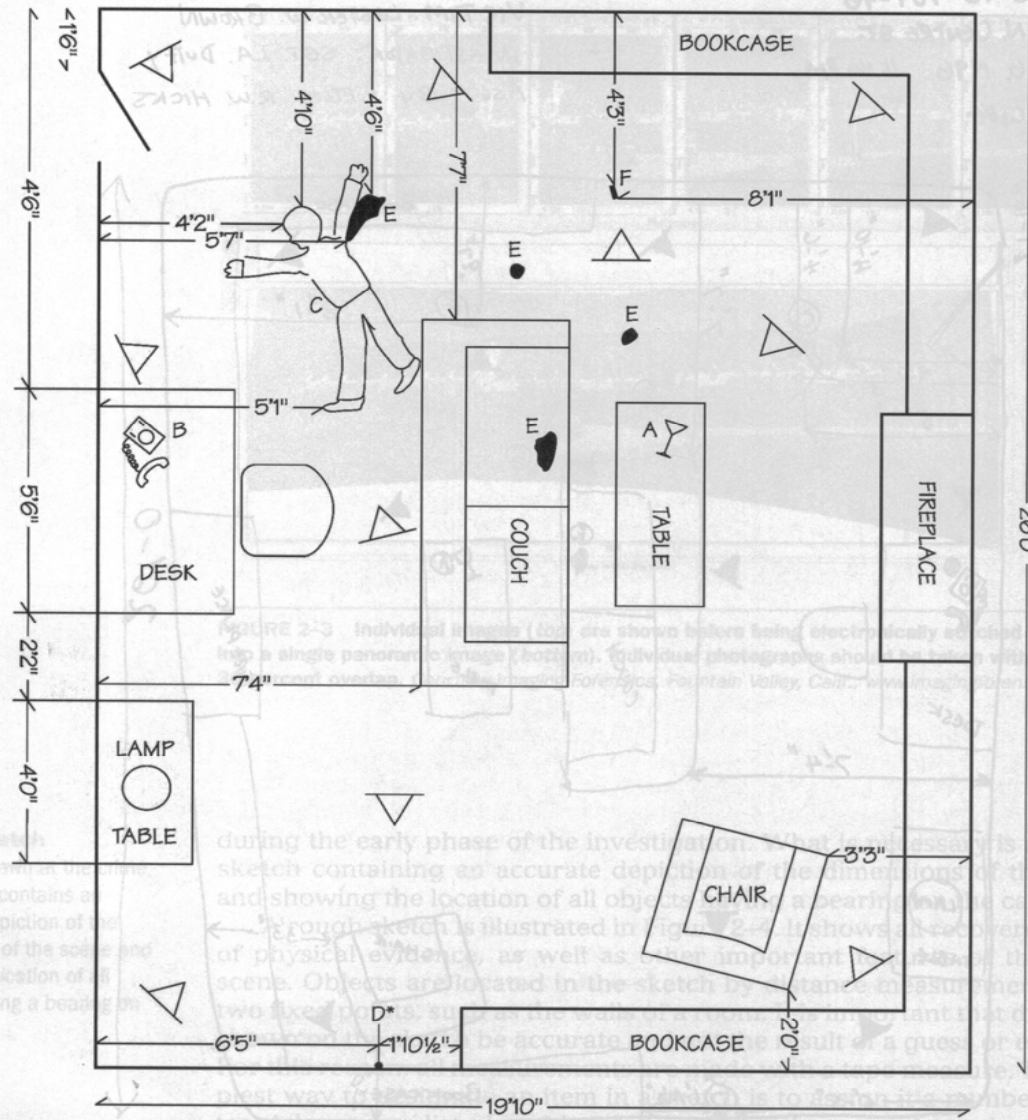


FIGURE 2-5 Finished-sketched diagram of a crime scene. Courtesy Sirchie Finger Print Laboratories, Inc., Youngsville, N.C., www.sirchie.com

Record the Crime Scene

3. Notes

- Describe the scene
- Location of Physical Evidence
 - Who discovered it
 - How was it discovered
 - Who packaged and marked it
- Tape recording
- Narrated videotaping

Evidence Search

- Typically done by evidence technicians
- Needs to be coordinated
- Search patterns are used (fig 2-7 text)
- Techniques include:
 - Latent fingerprint dusting/extraction
 - Impressions (tool marks, shoeprints/tire marks)
 - Fibers/hair collection
 - Vacuuming for trace evidence

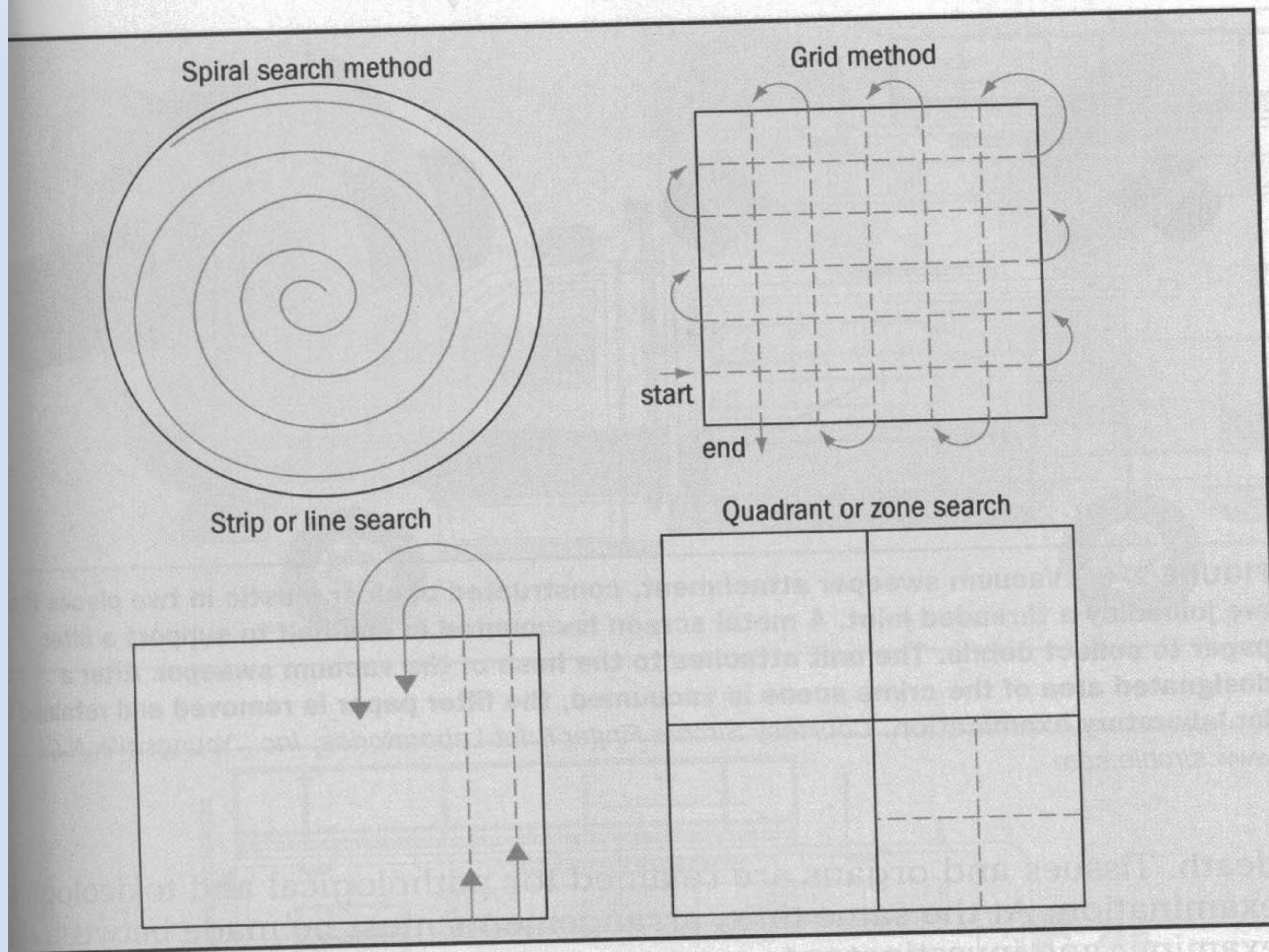


FIGURE 2-7 Several typical examples of crime-scene search patterns. The pattern selected normally depends on the size and locale of the scene and the number of collectors participating in the search.

Evidence at Autopsy

- Clothing
- Fingernail scrapings
- Head and pubic hairs
- Blood (DNA typing)
- Vaginal, Anal and oral swabs (Sex related crimes)
- Recovered Bullets
- Hand swabs from shooting victims (gunshot residue analysis)
- Tissues and organs retained for pathological and toxicological examination

Packaging Evidence

- Each Item must be packaged separately to avoid damage and cross-contamination.
- Collection techniques include the use of:
 - Gloves
 - Forceps
 - Containers
 - Plastic pill bottles
 - Manila Envelopes (not ordinary mailing envelopes)
 - “Druggist Fold” envelopes (let’s give it a try!)

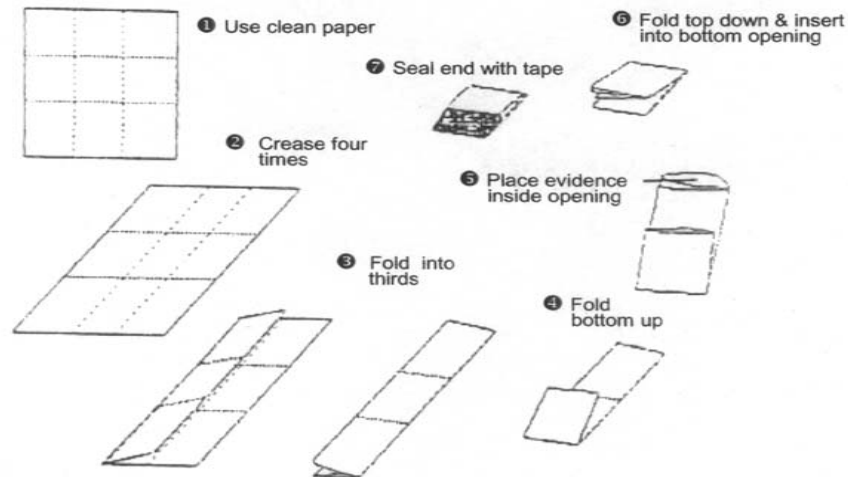


Paper Bindle Instructions

West Manheim Twp. Police Dept.

Property Manual

“Druggist Fold”

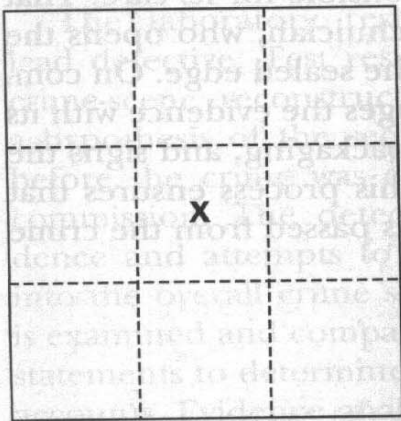


Source of drawing unknown

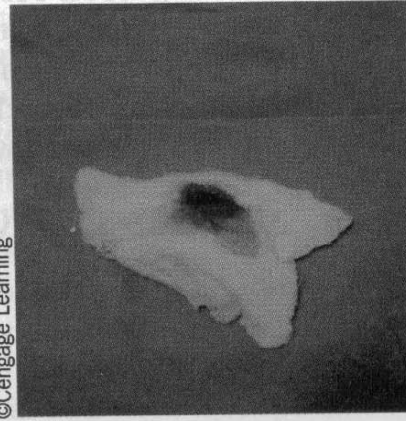
Points of Interest

- Paper bindles are commonly used for storage of *trace evidence* such as hair, fibers, paint chips, or other minute particles.
- Paper bindles are *preferred over plastic* containers for trace items that may be moist, carry an electrostatic charge, or require DNA analysis.
- Paper bindles are *preferred over envelopes* for trace items because they lack manufactured folds, corners, and openings where evidence can be lost.
- Seal a bindle with evidence tape. *Do Not staple.*
- A sealed bindle *should be placed inside a size "A" envelope* or other suitable container.

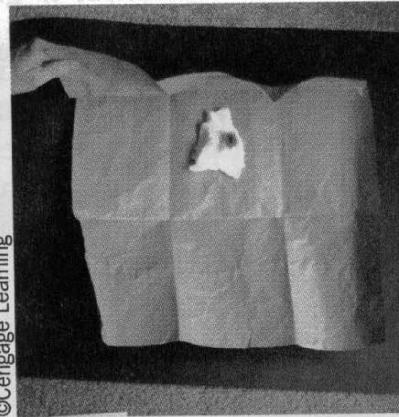
Figure 2-5. Demonstration of packaging of dry evidence.



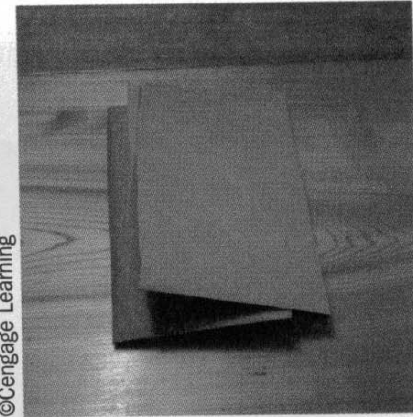
a. Placement of evidence.



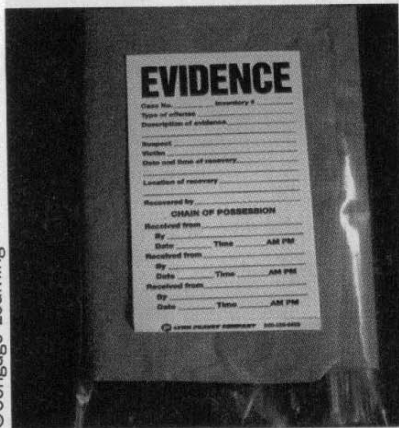
b. Allow evidence to dry.



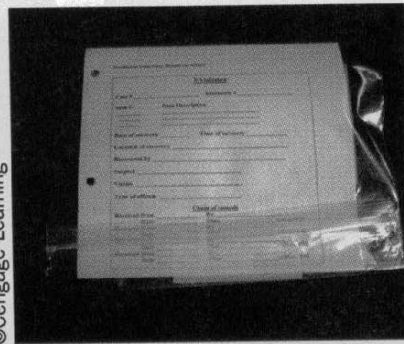
c. Place dried evidence on bindle paper.



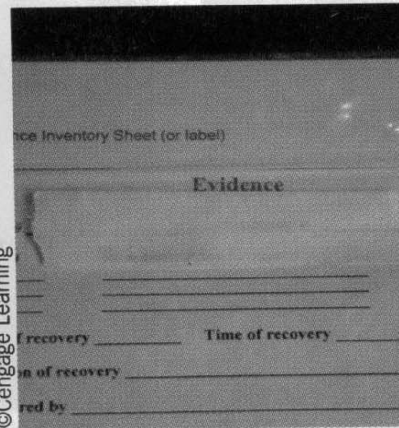
d. Fold bindle. Tuck the top flap into the bottom.



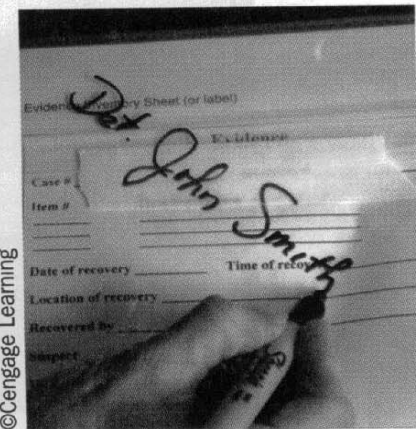
e. Secure bindle in labeled evidence bag using stick-on label.



f. Place evidence in a plastic bag with an inserted evidence label. (Note that this is a different evidence source than the bloody cloth above.)



g. Seal and tape the edge of the baggie.



h. Write the collector's signature across the baggie's taped edge.

Items Requiring Special Packaging

- Bloodstained Materials
 - Cannot use airtight containers (mold)
 - Use wrapping paper, manila envelope or paper bags.
- Clothing
 - Should be air dried
 - Package in separate paper bags
- Charred Debris
 - Airtight containers to retain volatile residues

Evidence Tags

- Evidence must be marked for ID
- Minimum record should include:
 - Collector's initials
 - Location of Evidence
 - Date of Collection

EVIDENCE

Submitting Agency _____

Date Collected _____ Time _____

Item # _____ Case # _____

Collected By _____

Description of Evidence _____

Location Where Collected _____

Type of Offense _____

CHAIN OF CUSTODY

Rec. From _____ By _____

Date _____ Time _____

Rec. From _____ By _____

Date _____ Time _____

Rec. From _____ By _____

Date _____ Time _____

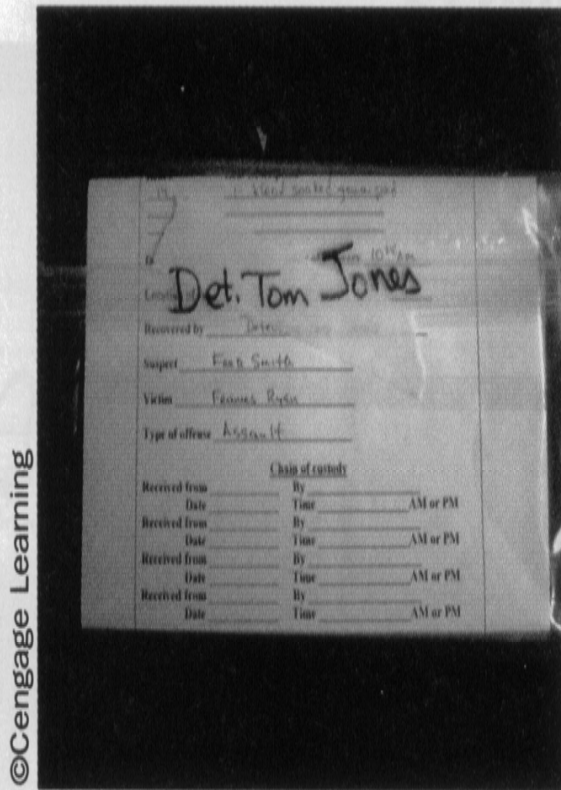
Maintaining a Chain of Custody

- Every person who handles or examines the evidence must be accounted for.
- Failure to do so can result in questions of authenticity and integrity.

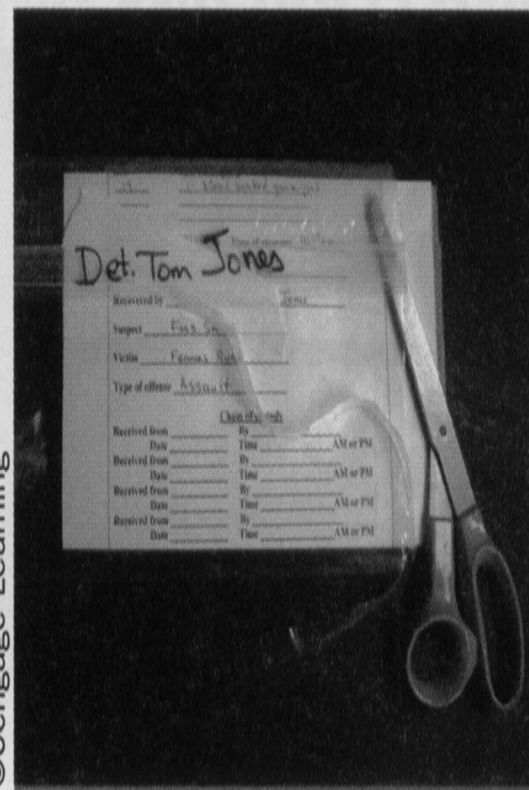
EVIDENTIAL CHAIN OF CUSTODY, RECORDED ON DA FORM 4137 (BACK)

CHAIN OF CUSTODY (Continued)				
ITEM NO	DATE	RELEASED BY	RECEIVED BY	PURPOSE OF CHANGE OF CUSTODY
4 and 5	24 Jan 85	SIGNATURE <i>Reg Mail</i> NAME, GRADE OR TITLE # 5678	SIGNATURE <i>Roger R. List</i> NAME, GRADE OR TITLE Roger R. LIST, SA	Rec'd by Evidence Custodian
1 thru 5	14 Feb 85	SIGNATURE <i>Roger R. List</i> NAME, GRADE OR TITLE Roger R. LIST, SA	SIGNATURE <i>Peter J. Paul</i> NAME, GRADE OR TITLE Peter J. KANE, MAJ, JAGC	Rel to TC for Court
1 thru 5	15 Feb 85	SIGNATURE <i>Peter J. Paul</i> NAME, GRADE OR TITLE Peter J. KANE, JAGC	SIGNATURE <i>Roger R. List</i> NAME, GRADE OR TITLE Roger R. LIST, SA	Ret to Evidence Custodian
1 and 2	8 Mar 85	SIGNATURE <i>Roger R. List</i> NAME, GRADE OR TITLE Roger R. LIST, SA	SIGNATURE <i>Paul J. Kelley</i> NAME, GRADE OR TITLE Paul J. KELLEY, CW3, USA	Ret to owner Final Disposition
3 4 5	8 Mar 85	SIGNATURE <i>Roger R. List</i> NAME, GRADE OR TITLE Roger R. LIST, SA	SIGNATURE Item 4,5 BURNED/Item 3 CRUSHED NAME, GRADE OR TITLE DESTROYED	Final Disposition
		SIGNATURE	SIGNATURE	
		NAME, GRADE OR TITLE	NAME, GRADE OR TITLE	
		SIGNATURE	SIGNATURE	
		NAME, GRADE OR TITLE	NAME, GRADE OR TITLE	
		SIGNATURE	SIGNATURE	
		NAME, GRADE OR TITLE	NAME, GRADE OR TITLE	
FINAL DISPOSAL ACTION				
RELEASE TO OWNER OR OTHER (Name/Unit) Item 1 and 2, CW3 Paul J. KELLEY, Co B, HQ Comd, Ft McClellan				
DESTROY Items 3, 4, and 5				
OTHER (Specify)				
FINAL DISPOSAL AUTHORITY				
ITEM(S) 1 thru 5 ON THIS DOCUMENT, PERTAINING TO THE INVESTIGATION INVOLVING PFC John S. DOE (Grade)				
Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Tng Bde, Ft McClellan, AL NY (NAME) NO LONGER (Organization)				
REQUIRED AS EVIDENCE AND MAY BE DEPOSED OF AS INDICATED ABOVE. (If article(s) must be retained, do not sign, but explain in separate correspondence.)				
Hugh H. JOYCE, CPT, JAGC <i>Hugh H. Joyce</i>				7 Mar 85
(Typed/Printed Name, Grade, Title) (Signature)				(Date)
WITNESS TO DESTRUCTION OF EVIDENCE				
THE ARTICLE(S) LISTED AT ITEM NUMBER(S) 3, 4, and 5 (WERE) DESTROYED BY THE EVIDENCE CUSTODIAN IN MY PRESENCE ON THE DATE INDICATED ABOVE				
SA Hubert L. HARRISON, Ft McClellan Field Office <i>Hubert L. Harrison</i>				
(Typed/Printed Name, Organization) (Signature)				

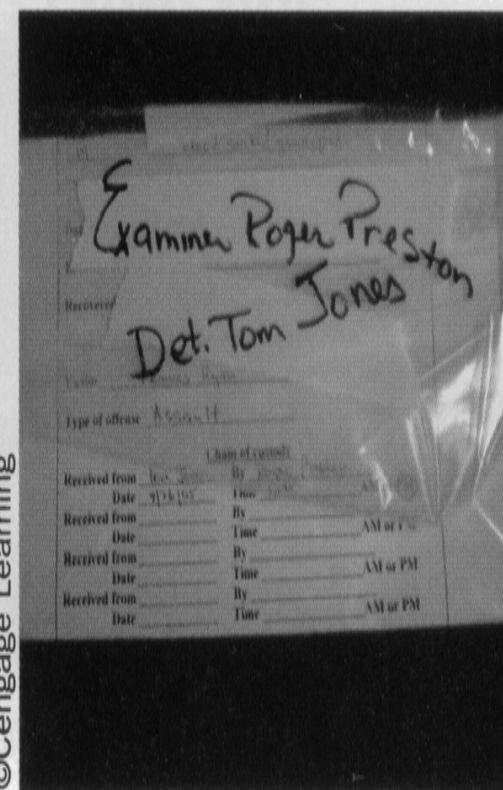
Figure 2-6. Chain-of-custody procedures.



a. Original evidence bag



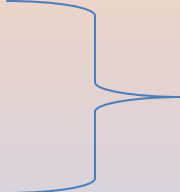
b. Opened evidence bag
maintaining signature on first seal



c. Original evidence bag with
uncut seal and signature, updated
chain-of-custody log in a new
sealed and signed evidence bag

Obtain Standard/Reference Samples

- Materials can be obtained from:

- Victim
 - Suspect
- 
- Hair, blood, semen, fibers, fingerprints, shoe prints, etc
- Other Known Items
 - Carpet Fibers
 - Paint
 - Tire material
 - Drinks
 - Water source (pool, lake, etc)

Lab Testing

- Delivery
 - Personally
 - By Mail
- Proper Packaging to avoid damage/contamination
- Evidence submission form (fig2-8 text, p.48)
 - All items must be listed

Legal Considerations

- Search and Seizure must conform with the 4th Amendment:

“The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized. “

- Except for very few circumstances, search and seizure of evidence without a search warrant may result in exclusion of valuable evidence from the case.
- *Mincey v. Arizona case* (p.50-51)
- *Michigan v. Tyler Case* (p.51)
- *The Star Chamber*