

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is conducting a 2-day pilot training, *DNA Collection and Use in Sexual Assault Cases: The Role of the First Responder*. This training is intended for law enforcement officers and others in the role of first responders who are responsible for the collection of DNA evidence.

The pilot training will be conducted on February 3 – 4, 2010 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions Public Safety Education and Training Center, 6852 4th Street, Sykesville, Maryland 21784. Since this is a pilot training, there will be no fee to attend. Your opinions about the material are valuable—you will be assisting OVC in refining the training to make it an effective offering when it is delivered at a later date. And because your opinions are important, we ask that you attend the entire training. We will provide a continental breakfast and lunch on both days.

Using interactive class activities, simulations, and case studies, this training will help participants gain knowledge and develop skills needed to identify, collect, analyze, and use DNA evidence. Through full participation in this training, you will be able to:

- Discuss the role of the first responder at a sex crime scene, and the purpose and function of the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART).
- Explain the various types of DNA testing and how these tests help identify or exclude suspects.
- Describe the types of DNA evidence you might find at a crime scene and how to handle it to avoid contamination and preserve the chain of custody.
- Discuss how the law and the first responder intersect, and examine critical legal issues with emphasis on handling DNA evidence accordingly.
- Develop action steps to take back to your organization.

The number of participants in the pilot training is limited. If you are interested in attending, please complete the attached application and e-mail it to Lucie Ngongbo (LNgongbo@ovcttac.org) no later than January 29, 2010. We will send you a confirmation letter by February 01, 2010 and provide you with next steps.

If you have any questions about the training, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lucie Ngongbo, Ph.D.
Technical Specialist
Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center
10530 Rosehaven St., Suite 400
Fairfax, VA 22030
LNgongbo@ovcttac.org