

Drug Collection / Disposal Program

322.1 DRUG COLLECTION / DISPOSAL PROGRAM DEFINITION

The drug collection and disposal program provides a safe disposal location for citizens to properly dispose of unused prescription medications.

1. This program provides an environmentally safe alternative to disposing of medications which may later negatively affect the environment.
2. This program encourages citizens to remove their unneeded medications from their homes. This reduces access to addictive medications for accidental or intentional misuse by children in the home.

322.2 DRUG COLLECTION / DISPOSAL PROGRAM PROCEDURE

Participating Precincts will provide steel mailbox style collection boxes in which citizens may deposit these medications.

1. Collection boxes shall be clearly marked for this purpose.
2. Collection boxes shall be locked and securely mounted to prohibit removal of the box or retrieval of medications from within the box without a key.
3. Citizens may place their unused medications / drugs into the collection box anonymously.
 - (a) Medications can be placed into plastic bags provided at the drop location or place the entire prescription bottle into the drop box.
 - (b) Syringes should not be placed in the drop box. The Property and Evidence (P&E) Unit will provide a bulk sharps disposal container at each deposit location for this purpose.
 - (c) Opened containers of liquid will not be accepted unless they are completely sealed.
4. The P&E Unit will be responsible for collection of the deposited medications.
 - (a) The P&E Unit will be the sole possessors of keys to the collection boxes.
 - i. Precinct members shall not have access to the contents of the collection boxes.
 - ii. The P&E Unit will only retrieve medications from the drop boxes with a member present. A member will witness the retrieval, photographic documentation, and sealing of the bulk package by the P&E technician prior to the items being released for transportation to the evidence building. The witness will initial on the evidence seal along with the P&E technician.

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- (b) A case number will be assigned to each collection box point annually. The P&E Unit will document each collection in a Property Report. This allows for tracking of data to monitor the program's benefits.
- (c) The P&E technician will document the name of the witnessing member in the supplemental or evidence submission report.
- (d) The P&E Unit will collect the deposited drugs on a frequency deemed necessary based on the location and usage.
- (e) With a witnessing member, the P&E technician will retrieve the deposited drugs, document a general description of the contents, take a digital photograph of the general contents, and seal the contents in an evidence collection bag.
- (f) The P&E technician may then take sole possession of the items, transport, and place into the evidence warehouse as dictated by P&E Unit Policies. In addition, the P&E technician will provide a weight of the contents and document in the supplemental or evidence submission report.
- (g) The P&E Unit will destroy the collected medications as authorized by law.

322.3 PARTICIPATION IN OTHER DRUG COLLECTION / DISPOSAL PROGRAM PROGRAMS

The department may participate in other coordinated collection efforts such as the County's Household Hazardous Waste Summer Collection Events.

1. Such events will require a sworn member to be present to physically take possession of any pharmaceuticals the public brings for disposal. The Health Department Staff are not allowed to accept any of these pharmaceuticals as hazardous waste.
2. The assigned sworn member will do the following:
 - (a) Obtain a case number for the event.
 - (b) Safely keep received items secure during the collection event.
 - (c) Place the received items into evidence following normal evidence submission policies with the exception that a general description of items and total weight may be used rather than itemizing all items received.
 - (d) The pharmaceutical drop box will not be used for this purpose.
 - (e) If large quantities are received, an evidence technician may be called to the location to take possession of the items.