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NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE IN FORENSIC SERVICES: Expansion of Testing for OUI Blood Samples in the Toxicology Unit

Effective as of February 19, 2026, all blood evidence submitted for OUI analysis in the Toxicology Unit of the Massachusetts State Police Forensic Services Division will be tested for both ethanol and drugs, irrespective of the ethanol concentration detected. The Toxicology Unit's previous practice had been to only perform drug testing on OUI cases when the blood-ethanol concentration was below 0.08 g% or if the facts of the case indicate possible drug impairment. This change is being implemented to standardize testing practices within the Toxicology Unit. The ethanol testing report will be issued first, and a supplemental report will be issued with the drug testing results once that analysis is complete.

Please note that these changes are affecting the workflow for testing toxicology blood evidence only. If the only toxicology evidence submitted relative to an OUI investigation is urine, the urine will continue to only be tested for drugs, not ethanol.

If the volume of toxicology evidence submitted is insufficient to allow for the routine scope of testing, toxicology staff will determine the most appropriate tasks to complete based upon the evidence available for testing and may contact the investigating agency and District Attorney point of contact if more information is needed to direct analysis.

If you have any questions, please contact the Toxicology Unit at 857-377-3010.