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88/2016
For Immediate Release
October 19, 2016

**BRONX DA'S OFFICE FIRST IN NATION TO ENACT POLICY COMPLYING
WITH FEDERAL STANDARD FOR HIV TESTING OF DEFENDANTS**
**Sexual Assault Victims Can Now Obtain Order For HIV Testing Of Defendant
Within 48 Hours After Indictment**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that her office is the first law enforcement agency in the nation to enact a policy complying with a federal law mandating that forcible sexual assault defendants be tested for HIV within 48 hours of their indictment.

District Attorney Clark said, "There is no reason on earth that anyone who is sexually brutalized should suffer a minute longer than necessary waiting to know if his or her assailant has HIV.

"I believe the federal law encourages expediency. All that is required is a small push to complete paperwork more quickly to advise the judge that a victim needs his or her attacker tested."

District Attorney Clark is instituting, as a matter of policy, a requirement that Assistant District Attorneys prepare a motion for HIV testing of a defendant immediately upon the request of a forcible sexual assault victim so that a judge may issue a ruling by the time the indictment is filed, enabling testing to occur within 48 hours.

The Bronx District Attorney's Office is the first such law enforcement agency in the nation to use a policy to certify compliance with the federal law, in an effort to serve victims of sexual assault to the highest legal standard available.

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