

Name _____ Date _____



Support Services

Project 8.4 Topic: Strong Links

Materials Needed

- Student Information Sheet
- Research materials – print and electronic
- Word processing program or paper and pencil alternative

Introduction

Every time a patient comes to the emergency room, the staff responds according to well-established rules and regulations. Everyday procedures are established to promote the health and safety of both patients and staff. When a patient who is a victim or perpetrator of a crime comes to the ER for care, there is an additional level of concern for the staff. Every potential piece of evidence must be properly preserved for later use in court. For example, a shirt covered with blood must be handled safely and preserved in its original state. And that's not all – the evidence must be secure so that it's impossible for anyone to tamper with the items. An important part of the security procedure is documenting who had access to the evidence. The documentation includes times that ensure that there were no lapses in security. It's a chain of custody. Everyone who works in a support services role needs to be ready to preserve the chain.

The Project

1. Find a definition for chain of custody.
2. Then research and find a job description for each of the following support services occupations:
 - Environmental services manager
 - Biomedical clinical technician
 - Transport technician
3. Next, review the student information sheet describing the scene at 17th and Lime. As you read, highlight or make a note of anything in the scenario that is or might become evidence.
4. Finally, write one sentence to describe how a person working in each of the three job descriptions would contribute to an uninterrupted chain of custody.