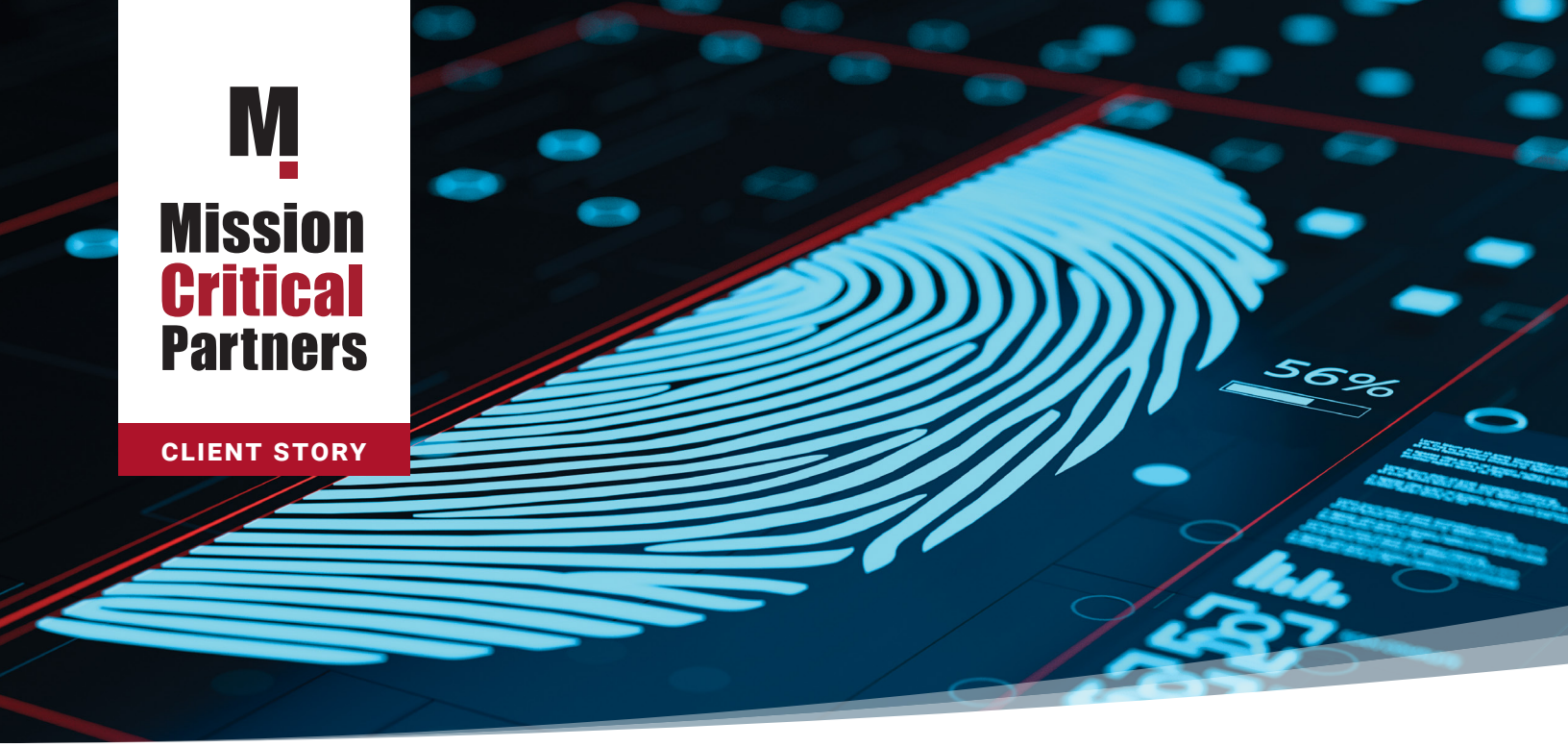
Mission Critical Partners

CLIENT STORY



Client Success Story: **Statewide Legal and Prosecutorial Organization**

MCP Transforms Evidence Tracking to Accelerate Justice

Client

Statewide Legal and Prosecutorial Organization

Challenge

Create an intuitive web-based system that prevents Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence (SAFE) kit backlogs while providing victims transparent, real-time tracking of their evidence status.

Approach

MCP designed, developed, and implemented a user-friendly, web-based system that eliminates current and future backlogs of unprocessed Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence (SAFE) kits and gives victims unprecedented visibility into their kit status.

Result

The SAFETrack application has contributed to successful case resolutions, including a felony sexual assault case resulting in a 15-year sentence, with additional cases now progressing to trial.

Opportunity

A statewide legal organization responsible for both civil and criminal matters supports a wide range of functions, including representing state agencies, enforcing consumer and environmental laws, prosecuting criminal cases when appointed, and managing felony appeals.

The Office sought a way to improve the ability to inventory and track Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence (SAFE) kits, also known as rape kits. Funding for this effort was provided through a federal grant provided by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, a unit within the U.S. Department of Justice, as part of a national initiative aimed at addressing long-standing challenges in evidence processing known as the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI).



Challenges

Across the United States, a significant backlog of unprocessed SAFE kits exists, which the federal government sought to alleviate with the SAKI initiative. SAFE kits often sit in laboratories for months, waiting for processing. Compounding the issue, no efficient or reliable mechanism existed to track kits throughout the processing lifecycle.

The inability to leverage such critical evidence hinders investigations and creates multiple challenges:

- ✖ **Victims experienced prolonged uncertainty and distress** because of the considerable lag time
- ✖ **Delayed evidence** that could lead to an arrest and conviction
- ✖ **Impacted the ability** to bring perpetrators to justice

Ideally, SAFE kits would be processed in a timely manner, and victims would be able to log into a web-based system to check on the status of their kit at any given moment, regardless of whether it is being processed by a state laboratory or third-party facility.

Approach

MCP subject-matter experts (SMEs) designed, developed, and implemented a comprehensive SAFE kits tracking system (also known as SAFETrack), which is the first to provide victims with visibility into the location and status of their kits. Input was solicited from the State's Attorney General's Office, law-enforcement agencies, hospitals, and testing laboratories to inform the development of the system's technical requirements. The SMEs then developed the software application, which took about a year.

With this system, every kit used is tracked at every step from beginning to end: ordering, shipping, acceptance, use, testing, and results documentation.

MCP's SAFETrack improves backlog and visibility issues of SAFE Kits.



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Result

SAFETrack is fully deployed in larger jurisdictions and continuing to expand statewide, with statutory requirements ensuring adoption across law enforcement, forensic healthcare providers, and testing laboratories.

SAFETrack, a user-friendly, web-based application, is designed to address the huge backlog of unprocessed kits and give victims unprecedented visibility into their kit status. Specific benefits include:

- Enables all organizations that handle SAFE kits to track location, initiate transfers, update test results, and maintain inventory.
- Enables tracking of ancillary evidence, e.g., clothing, tied to the SAFE kit for a particular incident.
- Enables accurate tracking of kits, at any given time, from organization to organization, i.e., vendor, users — law-enforcement agencies and healthcare providers (hospitals and urgent-care facilities) — testing laboratories — the state crime lab and third-party facilities — and court systems.
- Enables organizations to upload eligible offender DNA profiles into the national database maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS).
- Enables organizations to investigate and prosecute cases in which offender DNA profiles match existing records in the database.
- Provides procedural tracking to help eliminate current backlogs and prevent them from occurring in the future.
- Provides access for victims to track their kit location and its status at any time.

Efforts to reduce the backlog — enabled by the SAFETrack application — are already yielding results. The analysis of previously untested SAFE kits has contributed to successful case resolutions, including a felony sexual assault case resulting in a 15-year sentence, with additional cases now progressing to trial.

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About Mission Critical Partners

Mission Critical Partners (MCP) is a leading provider of data-integration, consulting, network, and cybersecurity solutions that enable public-sector organizations to improve outcomes in the public-safety, justice, healthcare, transportation, and utility sectors through enhanced and well-integrated technologies and operations.

For more information, visit MissionCriticalPartners.com

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