



KLTV 7 INVESTIGATES 2015 JULY SUMMARY

The KLTV 7 Investigative Team has been on the front line of getting answers for East Texans. In 2015, the team has aired more than 20 (twenty) original investigations and countless more follow up stories to previous investigations. Our efforts have resulted in changes in laws. Other stories have forced government agencies to re-evaluate their processes and procedures. All of our stories have resulted in conversations and reaction among voters across East Texas.

Kari's Law:

KLTV started investigating this story in 2014 after a Marshall, TX mother was killed in a hotel room. Her daughter tried repeatedly to dial 911 for help but was unaware there was an extra 9 needed. We brought this issue to State Senator Kevin Eltife who worked with us and the family to draft Kari's Law along with State Rep. Chris Paddie. The law requires businesses with multi-line telephone systems to allow direct dialing to 911. Through KLTV's reporting and the efforts of Eltife and Paddie, Kari's Law was signed by Governor Greg Abbott in May 2015.

Hazardous Cargo:

Teaming up with Raycom Media stations from states across the country, we set out to find out what is riding down the rails in our communities. Some of the materials are typical, every day products, others are some that – if an incident were to occur – could force evacuations. We spoke with evacuees of a recent derailment and to local first responders to find out what they do to prepare for the worst.

School Zone Camera Controversy:

A controversial school speed zone camera program was approved quietly by Smith County commissioners. KLTV's Investigative team obtained the contract from Smith County, asked questions that citizens wanted answers to and visited Kaufman County, where a similar system is already in place. We also posted up outside of two school zones that could be affected by the program and with the help of a radar gun, investigated to see if speeding indeed was a problem.

Rape Kit Backlog

KLTV investigated and uncovered there is no firm deadline for agencies to process sexual assault kits performed at local hospitals. Our team investigated and found a backlog in testing of rape kits in East Texas counties. If kits are tested, it could take months, or even years for results to be returned.

The wait can result in delayed justice for victims who have already endured so much.

Inmates Released

As a follow up to an investigation in 2014, our investigation team found that a delay in cases being handed from sheriff's office investigators to the district attorney's office has resulted in dangerous suspects walking back on the streets. Back when we first ran the story the sheriff's office put strict deadlines on their investigators but in 2015 it was discovered the investigators failed to turn over certain cases. The sheriff's office has since revised their policies again, and we are checking to make sure they are being followed.