



After the paperwork is completed, a SANE will begin the evidence collection and medical exam. These can include:

- Asking you to undress and put on a gown
- Providing a thorough head to toe exam
- Completing an internal and external exam
- Drawing blood, if indicated
- Collecting urine, if indicated
- Taking photographs of the genitalia by means of a colposcope or other imaging system
- Giving and/or prescribing medications to prevent infection
- Providing referrals to follow up medical providers, support services, and Crime Victim Compensation

### Who pays for this?

Neither you nor your health insurance should be billed for any costs associated with the sexual assault forensic exam, medications, or any follow-up appointments. There may be charges to you for medical injuries, if there are any. You may be eligible for compensation through the Crime Victim Compensation Program, for the additional medical costs, as well as other benefits.

If you are billed for this exam or if you would like more information about crime victim compensation, call the Sexual Assault Examination (SAE) Program of the Iowa Attorney General.



### **Iowa Victim Service Call Center**

The IVSCC is a statewide resource to victims and survivors of any crime in Iowa. With staff available 24 hours a day and 365 days a year, callers are able to access resources in their specific areas and given the attention they deserve.

**(800) 770-1650**

**or text 'IOWAHELP' to 20121**  
[survivorshelpline.org](http://survivorshelpline.org)



## **Contact Us**

**Victim Assistance Section**  
**Office of the Attorney General of Iowa**

Lucas State Office Building  
321 East 12th Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
Phone: 515-281-5044  
Toll-Free: 800-373-5044  
FAX: 515-281-8199

<https://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/for-crime-victims>

# **WHAT TO EXPECT**



## **ADULT SEXUAL ASSAULT EXAMINATION**



The information on this brochure is generally for patients aged 16 and above. If a facility does not have SANE services available, the patient may need to wait until a SANE is available or they may be transferred to another facility where there is a SANE.

## WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT?

Sexual assault is ANY sex act done by force against another, against the will of another, or where the other person cannot give consent. It may be called a variety of names including rape, incest, molestation, sexual violence, marital rape, date rape or others. Sexual assault can happen to anyone, at anytime, anywhere.

Sexual assault is a crime. Perpetrators of sexual assault can be anyone- an acquaintance, date, relative, stranger, friend or spouse. Sexual assault is a crime of power, not lust, done to hurt and humiliate another.

### It is NOT your fault!

Making decisions after a sexual assault is often very overwhelming. In addition to making decisions about who to tell, you may be struggling with your medical and legal decisions. There is not a one-size-fits-all answer, but once you are safe, the most common and best place to start is to go to a local Emergency Room.



## YOU HAVE OPTIONS

- **To have an advocate present**
- **To have a medical exam**
- **To get evidence collected**
- **To get medications**
- **To make a police report**
- **To remain anonymous**

You have the right to accept or decline any of these options.

### YOU get to decide what is best for YOU!

Once you have arrived, you will let them know you are there for sexual assault services. They should prioritize finding a room for you. They should then contact a local victim advocate agency and a trained sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE).

A victim advocate is a free and confidential support person for YOU. This person can also explain procedures and options that are available to you. You have a right to have an advocate remain with you at all times during any law enforcement questioning and the entirety of the medical exam, if you so desire. You can ask the person to leave at any time during your exam.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) are registered nurses who have completed specialized education and clinical preparation in the medical forensic care of the patient who has experienced sexual assault or abuse.

Evidence collection should be done within 5 days (**approximately 120 hours**) of the assault. You CAN be seen by the team for up to **30 days** post assault for all other parts of the medical exam.\*

\*Availability varies by location.

## Consent:

Before a SANE can start their process, they will first determine that you are able and willing to consent. They will have you sign consent forms before asking any questions or performing any part of the exam. By giving consent, it simply means that you are willingly agreeing to the services the SANE can provide for you. After giving consent, you can still change your mind at any time during the exam. If you choose not to consent, no evidence will be collected nor submitted for testing. You can also choose to remain anonymous. If so, any evidence collected will not be tested, it will only be stored by law enforcement. Law enforcement will only send evidence to the state crime lab if you want to move forward with an investigation, starting with making a report.

## Paperwork:

A SANE will gather details and ask some personal questions. These questions may include:

- Have you had sexual activity in the last five days?
- Do you know the person who sexually assaulted you?
- Specific questions regarding the incident and genitals (“did the penis go inside the vagina?”).
- Had you been using any drugs or alcohol?
- Are you currently using any birth control?

None of these questions are meant to imply that it is your fault. You are not to blame for this assault. These questions help guide the SANE in their care, exam and evidence collection, as well as document the circumstances.