

## Important Information for

- Victims of sexual abuse
- Hospitals and clinics
  - Billing Departments
  - Social Service Departments
  - Emergency Departments
- Physicians and Sexual Abuse Nurse Examiners (SANEs)
- Medical Laboratories
- Pharmacies

## History and Authority

The Sexual Abuse Examination Payment Program (SAE) was established in 1979 to pay the cost of evidentiary examinations for victims of sexual crimes. The Iowa Attorney General's Crime Victim Assistance Division has administered the program since July 1, 1990.

The State's authority and responsibility to pay for the examinations is established in Iowa Code section 915.41:

**915.41 The cost of a medical examination for the purpose of gathering evidence and the cost of treatment for the purpose of preventing venereal disease shall be paid from the fund established in section 915.94.**

[The Compensation Fund]

## Program Purpose

The SAE Program has a three-fold purpose. The state pays the cost of forensic examinations to ensure that evidence is collected in a proper and timely manner. The state pays the cost of the medical examination to assure the wellbeing of victims of sexual abuse. Finally, the state pays the cost of treatment for the prevention of a sexually transmitted infection (STI) for a victim.

(\*If a STI is contracted, the charges for the treatment of the contracted STI could potentially be paid by the Crime Victim Compensation Program)

The SAE program pays the cost of an evidentiary sexual abuse examination whether or not the victim reports the crime to law enforcement. A timely exam ensures that prosecutors have effectively collected evidence if the victim later decides to report the crime. Sexual Abuse evidence is most effectively collected from adults in the 72 hours immediately following the assault. For children, the effective collection period is slightly longer, but best done as soon as possible.



## Payment for sexual abuse examinations include:

1. The physician or SANE primary examiner fee up to \$200
  - History and documentation;
  - Physical examination;
  - Collection of specimens;
  - Follow up tests and treatment for the prevention of STIs.
2. Facility fees up to \$300 (emergency department, clinic, or office)
  - The examination room;
  - Nursing services;
  - Medical supplies;
  - Medical equipment use such as colposcope and camera.
3. Reasonable Laboratory fees
  - Collection of laboratory specimens;
  - STI testing, including HIV and hepatitis screening;
  - Pregnancy testing;
  - Drug and alcohol screens;
  - Date rape drug screens.
4. Reasonable Pharmacy fees
  - Prescriptions for the treatment to prevent STI.
  - Oral contraceptives and Plan B (morning after pill).
5. Return visit fees
  - Testing and treatment for the prevention of STIs;
  - Examiner and facility fees have the same payment limits as for the initial examination.

- The SAE program has no direct contact with the sexual abuse victim.
- There is no SAE victim application form.
- Medical providers and laboratories send bills directly to the program.
- Per federal regulations, medical providers cannot refuse to provide an exam because the victim chooses not to report to law enforcement.

## Billing Guidelines

The SAE program has the following billing guidelines by law and administrative rule.

- The program is the **primary payer** for sexual abuse medical and evidentiary exams.
- A provider is **prohibited from billing the victim** for the forensic and medical examination, including any balance remaining after the SAE program has paid.
- A provider is **prohibited** from billing the victim's cost of the exam to the private or public health insurance provider.

## Billing Procedures

- Bills for an SAE examination are submitted to the program directly by the examiner, facility, or laboratory.
- The bill must itemize each cost and include the name of each service provided.
- The diagnosis must be properly coded for sexual abuse, generally V71.5, E960.1, 995.53 or 995.83, and state that the services were a sexual abuse examination.
- The bill must include the Federal identification Number of the provider, the date of service, and the victim's name and date of birth.
- Medical records must be attached.

## Crime Victim Compensation

The SAE program pays only the costs associated with an examination for a sexual abuse crime. Victims often have additional physical or emotional injuries, separate from those addressed by the sexual abuse evidence exam.

**All sexual abuse victims should be given an application for the Crime Victim Compensation Program.**

The Crime Victim Compensation program may help pay other crime-related costs of the victim such as counseling costs, lost wages, additional medical costs, crime scene cleanup, and clothing replacement.

Funding for the SAE and Crime Victim Compensation programs comes entirely from state and federal criminal fines and penalties. No tax dollars are used.

### Submit bills to:

SAE Program  
Crime Victim Assistance Division  
Lucas State Office Building  
Ground Floor  
321 East 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515-281-5044 or 1-800-373-5044

Visit our website at  
[www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov)  
Click on "Assisting Crime Victims"

# IOWA SEXUAL ABUSE EXAMINATION PAYMENT PROGRAM



Attorney General Tom Miller  
Crime Victim Assistance Division  
Lucas State Office Building  
Ground Floor  
321 East 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

