

WHAT IS A SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAM?

A sexual assault forensic exam (SAFE), also known as a rape kit is a physical exam used to collect and preserve DNA evidence and receive medical care after an assault. This exam is done by a trained medical professional and can involve a full body examination at the discretion of the survivor. The exam may include body swabs, photographs of injuries, preventative treatment for STIs, and emergency contraception.



MEDICAL ADVOCACY

During a sexual assault forensic exam, you have the right to be accompanied by a medical advocate. Medical advocacy is specialized on-call advocacy providing 24/7 support for survivors of sexual assault. Medical advocates provide patient advocacy throughout the exam or rape kit at the survivor's discretion.






ABOUT US

EVE, End Violent Encounters is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that provides supportive services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence, stalking, and elder abuse. EVE's programs use a non-judgmental, supportive, and strengths-based approach. They are client-centered and are offered to all, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ability, income, marital status, age, and veteran status.

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-  24-HOUR CRISIS LINE: 517-372-5572
-  WWW.EVEINC.ORG
-  P.O. BOX 14149 LANSING, MI. 48901



SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAM

INFORMATIONAL BROCHURE

WHAT TO KNOW



Most importantly, know the **assault is not your fault**. It does not matter what you were wearing, if you had been drinking or flirting with the person, or if you even went home with them. **Sexual abuse of**

any kind is always the perpetrator's fault.

In most cases, DNA evidence needs to be collected within 120 hours in order to be analyzed by a crime lab.

However, an exam can still be completed beyond this time to collect other important evidence if you decide to report later on. If you are able to try to avoid activities such as

- showering
- bathing
- going to the bathroom
- changing clothes
- cleaning up the scene

as it can potentially compromise evidence. However, if you have done any of these things you can still receive an exam.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Please note that what happens during the exam is completely up to you and your comfort level. You can skip, pause, or stop at any point during the exam.

Immediate care: If you have any injuries that require immediate care those will be addressed first.

Medical History: You will be asked about your medical history including pre-existing conditions, current medications, and other general background information.

Examination: You will be asked about the details of the assault to help identify potential areas of injury or location of evidence. With your permission, the trained professional may take pictures of injuries, collect your clothing, and perform an internal examination of your mouth, vagina, and anus. They may also want to collect bloodwork as part of an assessment for another medical need.

A SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAM SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO YOU AT NO COST.



WHY CONSIDER AN EXAM

Health Factors: Your health matters and a sexual assault may cause physical external and internal injuries. An exam allows for these injuries to be addressed while also providing you with preventative treatment for STIs, and emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy.

Extra Time for Reporting: The exam can provide you with extra time to decide if you want to report the assault to the authorities. This decision is completely up to you and having the exam done can safely preserve any evidence if you decide to report.

Increased likelihood of prosecution: DNA samples can help connect the assault to the perpetrator and build a stronger case against them. It can also prevent future sexual assaults as the perpetrator's DNA is added to a database making it easier to connect them to other crimes.

