

What's Next?



After A Sexual Assault



*Advocating for Victims of
Crime and Abuse*

Resources

Prevail, Inc.

1100 South 9th Street, Suite 100
Noblesville, IN 46060
Phone: 317-773-6942
24 Hr. Crisis Line: 317-776-3472
www.prevailinc.org

INCASA

Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault
26 N. Arsenal Ave
Indianapolis, IN 46201
Phone: 317-423-0233
www.incasa.org

RAINN

Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network
National Sexual Assault Hotline
24 Hr. Crisis Line: 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)
www.rainn.org

Connect2Help

Statewide Community Referrals
Phone: 211

Am I required to report the assault to law enforcement?

No, the victim always has the option of reporting to law enforcement. If the victim does not want to report to law enforcement, the kit is submitted as anonymous.

How can Prevail help?

Crisis Intervention

- ... 24 Hr. Crisis Line & Response
- ... Safety Planning
- ... Assistance Filing a Protective Order

Adult Services

- ... Individualized Support
- ... Support Groups
- ... Community Referrals
- ... Employment Services
- ... Court Support

Youth Services

- ... Individualized Support
- ... Support Groups
- ... Court Support
- ... Community Referrals

Victim Notification Program

What is Sexual Assault?

Sexual assault is a violent crime and is motivated by a need to control, humiliate, overpower, and harm someone. It occurs any time a person is forced, coerced, and/or manipulated into unwanted sexual activity. Sexual assault violates a person's trust and feeling of safety.

Because of gender stereotypes and rape myths in our society, it is common to blame the victim for dressing suggestively, having too much to drink, taking a walk alone, or inviting someone into his/her bedroom.

Rape & sexual assault are never the victim's fault- no matter where or how it happens.

When should I go to the hospital?

If it has been **120 hours or less** after the assault has occurred, one should go to the hospital to have a sexual assault exam completed.

If it has been **more than 120 hours** since the assault has occurred, one should seek medical attention as soon as possible to ensure medical safety.

What is a sexual assault exam kit?

A sexual assault exam kit is a comprehensive medical exam to ensure the individual's health and well being. The kit is then kept by the sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) or medical provider until picked up by law enforcement or the crime lab. It is then stored until the victim determines whether or not to pursue a case.

What is a SANE?

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.

What does the exam entail?

The exam has multiple collections and on average, takes about 3-4 hours. While this may seem lengthy, medical and exams are comprehensive to ensure individual health and well being. The victim has the right, at any time, to accept or deny any or all parts of the exam.

- 1.) To begin, the SANE will write down the victim's detailed medical history. This sets a clear picture of existing health status, including medications being taken and preexisting conditions unrelated to the assault.
- 2.) Next there is a head-to-toe, detailed examination and assessment of the entire body, externally and internally. This may include blood collection, urine, hair & other body secretion samples, photo documentation of injuries, collection of clothing, a vaginal, oral, penile or anal exam.
- 3.) Finally, the SANE will speak about treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) that may have been exposed during the assault. The SANE will also discuss options for emergency contraceptives.



What is an "anonymous exam"?

Victims have the option of submitting their exam kit as anonymous. This allows them to submit a completed kit with identifying information that only the hospital has access to. The victim has **up to one year** to decide to report to law enforcement, in which their exam kit identification will be revealed to law enforcement and the crime lab for use in possible prosecution.

The victim has the right to have a victim advocate present to ensure their emotional well-being.

Is there a cost for the exam?

No, there is not a cost to the victim for the sexual assault forensic exam kit. The exam kit will be paid for by the Indiana Victim Compensation Fund through the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.



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