

## HOW MUCH DOES A FORENSIC EXAMINATION COST?

The cost of the collection and testing of the **Sexual Assault Nurse Examination (SANE) kit is covered by the state.**

Other medical services provided, such as treatment of injuries or emergency contraception, will be billed through insurance. An advocate can help you understand the potential expenses.

## HOW LONG DOES A FORENSIC EXAMINATION TAKE?

The length of time can vary, but the exam generally takes 4-6 hours.

## EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT LOCATIONS:

To receive a forensic examination, go to a hospital's emergency department and ask for a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner kit.

**Bryan Medical Center West Campus**  
2300 S. 16th St., Lincoln, NE 68502.

**Bryan Medical Center East Campus**  
1600 S 48th St, Lincoln, NE 68506

**Saint Elizabeth Hospital**  
555 South 70th Street, Lincoln, NE 68510

## YOU HAVE RIGHTS.

- You have the right to choose whether or not to report to law enforcement.
- You have the right to make an anonymous report to Lincoln Police.
- You have the right to refuse any part of the forensic examination and ask questions at any time during the exam.

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF AN ADVOCATE?

An Advocate is specially trained to provide support and information about resources and options for survivors of interpersonal violence. An Advocate from **Voices of Hope** is called to the emergency room when a patient requests a forensic examination.

**With your permission, an advocate will stay throughout the duration of the forensic examination.**

## CAMPUS ADVOCATE

For your convenience, a Voices of Hope Advocate is available on the NWU campus. The **Campus Advocate** is available to support all students, faculty, and staff affected by interpersonal violence.



402-465-2533 | [advocate@nebrwesleyan.edu](mailto:advocate@nebrwesleyan.edu)  
**Voices of Hope 24/7 Crisis Line: 402-475-7273**

# FORENSIC EXAMINATIONS

FOR SURVIVORS OF  
SEXUAL ASSAULT AND INTIMATE  
PARTNER VIOLENCE



*NWU supports survivors.*

*The Campus Advocate is here to help all students, including those not enrolled full-time.*

*The campus advocate can also support staff and faculty.*

## SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINER (SANE):

A Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) is specially trained to care for survivors of sexual assault and intimate partner violence, address their medical needs, and collect physical evidence. **A SANE's first priority is to care for a person's medical needs.**



## WHAT IS A FORENSIC EXAMINATION?

**The purpose of a forensic examination is to collect physical evidence.** The exam may involve taking pictures of injuries, swabbing for evidence collection, and performing a pelvic exam. It is possible to collect evidence for sexual assault and intimate partner violence. Evidence is collected in a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) kit.

**The SANE will explain each step of the exam. The patient has the right to stop the exam at any time, decline any part of the exam, and ask questions about the exam.** Patients will be treated for potential sexually transmitted infections. Patients also have the option to access emergency contraception. The SANE will provide education on signs/symptoms to watch for and the importance of following up with a primary care provider.

## THE FOLLOWING STEPS CAN HELP PRESERVE EVIDENCE:

- It is best to visit a hospital within 96 hours of a sexual assault
- **Do not change clothing. Bring extra clothes to the emergency department if possible.** Otherwise, emergency department staff will provide you with a change of clothing.
- **If you have changed your clothes,** put the clothes that were worn when the assault occurred—including underwear—in a paper bag and bring it to the emergency department.
- **Do not** shower, bathe, brush your teeth, drink fluids, eat or smoke before the exam.
- Put any other article that may contain evidence (such as sheets, towels, washcloths, etc.) in a paper bag and bring it to the emergency department



## PLEASE NOTE:

The above steps are recommendations to help preserve physical evidence.

**A person may still receive a forensic examination if the above recommendations are not followed.**

If more than 96 hours have passed since the assault occurred, a person may still receive a forensic exam and is encouraged to seek medical treatment.

## WILL LAW ENFORCEMENT BE NOTIFIED?

Lincoln Police Department will be notified when an act of sexual assault or intimate partner violence is reported to emergency department staff. The patient may choose whether or not to make a police report.

**Patients are under no obligation to make a report to police.**



## FILING AN ANONYMOUS REPORT:

It is possible to file an anonymous report of sexual assault to the Lincoln Police Department. Anonymous reports are assigned a number that is noted on the SANE kit.

**An anonymous report will not result in an investigation unless the person who made the report later decides to make a formal report to law enforcement.**

To file an anonymous report, call the **Lincoln Police Department at 402-441-3866**, or visit the Lincoln Police Department website.

A number will be randomly generated and assigned to your report. **You will need to tell this number to the SANE at the emergency department.**