

Sexual Assault Victim Information Guide

Accessible text version of the SANE information card for screen readers and assistive technology.

Supportive Guidance

- Approach victims calmly. Showing outrage at the crime may increase trauma.
- Ask whether the victim would like you to contact a family member or friend.
- Offer to contact a sexual assault crisis counselor. Ask whether the victim would prefer to talk with a helper or law enforcement officer of a specific sex.
- Be careful not to appear overprotective or patronizing.
- Remember that it is normal for victims to want to forget—or to actually forget—details that are difficult to accept.
- Encourage medical attention, especially to check for possible internal injuries. Explain that a medical forensic exam can also provide evidence for apprehension and prosecution. Acknowledge that exposing the body during an exam can be emotionally difficult and explain each step before it happens.

Preserve Evidence

- Avoid showering or bathing.
- Do not eat or drink.
- Do not brush teeth.
- Avoid changing or washing clothing; place clothes in a paper bag if changing is necessary.

Hospital & SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner)

- Notify the hospital of the incoming victim/patient and request a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE).
- Escort the victim to the hospital. If no crisis intervention counselor or SANE is available, wait until the victim is released and escort them to their destination.

Kansas Resources (24/7 Confidential Support)

Kansas Crisis Hotline: 1-888-END-ABUSE (1-888-363-2287)
Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV):
<https://www.kcsdv.org/about-kcsdv/>

Crime Victims Compensation Board: ag.ks.gov/victim-services/victim-compensation
Kansas VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday): Toll-free: 866-574-8463

Notes on Evidence and Privacy

A medical forensic examination can be performed even if the victim is undecided about reporting to law enforcement. Evidence collection is time-sensitive; encourage prompt medical care while centering the victim's choices.

Source: Pittsburg State University School of Nursing – SANE Information Card (accessible text version).