

The State of Louisiana's Responsibility to All Survivors:

- Support survivors in their decision to report or not report the incident to law enforcement.
- Not require survivors to report the incident to receive medical attention or collect evidence.
- Notify law enforcement if the survivor is under 18 or is physically or mentally incapable of making the decision to report.
- Ensure survivors are examined and treated without undue delay.
- Provide a private space to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of survivors.
- Adapt the Forensic Medical Examination (FME) to meet the unique needs and circumstances of each patient.
- Provide survivors an advocate.
 - Advocate's communications are privileged.
 - The advocate shall remain in the room during the FME with consent from the patient.

What is Included in a Forensic Medical Examination (FME)?

With the consent of the survivor:

- An examination of physical trauma.
- A patient interview, including medical history, triage, and consultation.
- Collection and evaluation of evidence, including but not limited to:
 - Photographic documentation.
 - Preservation and maintenance of chain of custody.
 - Medical specimen collection.
- If necessary, an alcohol or drug-facilitated sexual assault assessment and toxicology screening, as determined by the healthcare provider (HCP).
- Any testing related to the sexual assault or recommended by the HCP.
- Any medication provided during the FME, which may include emergency contraception (EC), HIV, or STI prophylaxis.

What Happens to my FME Kit Afterwards?

If you choose to report:

- When the FME is complete, the hospital or healthcare provider (HCP) will contact the appropriate law enforcement agency (LEA) with jurisdiction over the crime location.
- If the location cannot be determined, the hospital or HCP will contact the LEA where the FME is performed.
- Law enforcement has 72 hours to take possession of the sexual assault kit upon completion notification. Until pickup, it will be stored in a secure location.
- *No sexual assault kit will remain at a hospital or medical facility if it cannot be stored securely to ensure proper chain of custody.*

What Happens to my FME Kit Afterwards (Cont.)?

If you do not choose to report:

- The hospital or HCP will contact the LEA with jurisdiction over the FME location to transfer possession of the unreported sexual assault kit for storage.
- The kit will not be labeled with a survivor's identifying information. The hospital or HCP will maintain a record of the kit number for future identification, should the survivor later choose to report.
- The HCP will provide all necessary information to the statewide tracking system operated by the Louisiana State Police.
- *The LEA or Coroner's office shall not destroy or dispose of an unreported sexual assault kit for at least twenty years after the FME.*

You Will Not be Billed for FME-Related Services.

- No hospital or HCP can bill a survivor of a sexually oriented criminal offense for any healthcare services rendered in conducting an FME.
- Crime Victim Reparations Board (CVRB):
 - If you receive a bill for non-covered medical services other than the forensic medical exam, you may be able to have the bills paid by the Crime Victims Reparations Board. For more information about covered costs or how to apply, visit www.lcle.state.la.us/programs/cvr.asp or call (888) 6-VICTIM (888-684-2846).

Emergency Contraception (EC)

- Survivors will be provided with information about emergency contraception through the Louisiana Department of Health's website or by paper form upon request.
- The treating HCP will inform survivors of the option to receive emergency contraception at the hospital or healthcare facility (HCF) and, upon a negative pregnancy test result, will provide emergency contraception if requested.
 - Note: Emergency contraception refers only to drugs approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Access your Region's Plan:

- Scan the QR code or click the link below to access and learn more about your region's Sexual Assault Response Plan.
- <https://ldh.la.gov/page/sexual-assault-response-plans>

