LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Public Health

OPH Southeast Region 1

2025 REGIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE PLAN

Updated – February 2025

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OVERVIEW

In the 2015 Louisiana Regular Legislative Session, the Legislature passed ACT No: 229, which addresses the treatment and billing of survivors of a sexually-oriented criminal offense. This legislation, which is now R.S. 40:1216.1, was enacted to ensure survivors have access to a forensic medical examination in every parish and to ensure no hospital or healthcare provider bill a survivor for any healthcare services rendered in conducting a forensic medical examination.

Louisiana R.S. 40:1216.1 mandates the Louisiana Department of Health, to coordinate an annual sexual response plan for each of its nine regional health service districts. Each plan shall incorporate a sexual assault response team protocol. The coroners in OPH Region 1 have designated University Medical Center, Lakeside Hospital, and New Orleans Family Justice Center to be the provider of forensic medical exams for adults and Manning Family Children's and Jefferson Children's Advocacy Center to be the provider for children. However, the emergency room physicians/providers will continue to perform medical screenings.

In January 2025, input was solicited from the OPH Region 1 coroners, and also from other regional SAR partners in the January 28, 2025 meeting, regarding any updates and/or changes needed for the 2025 SAR Plan. SEE APPENDIX D for a copy of notices sent to stakeholders about the SAR planning meeting, a list of the individuals and organizations that were provided notice, and the method and timing of the notice provided. See APPENDIX E for a list of the individuals and organizations in attendance at the meeting.

The following 2025 OPH Southeast Region 1 Sexual Assault Response Plan includes the consensus recommended updates/changes (SEE APPENDIX H) and will be submitted to the LDH Secretary for approval. The plan also meets the statutory mandates of Louisiana R.S. 40:1216.1 and of ACT No. 669 of the 2024, as outlined below and includes the procedures which shall constitute minimum standards for the operation and maintenance of hospitals:

a) Provide an inventory of all available resources and existing infrastructure in the region and clearly outline how the resources and infrastructure will be incorporated in the most effective manner.

b) Clearly outline the entity responsible for the purchase of sexual assault collection kits and the standards and procedures for the storage of the kits prior to use in a forensic medical examination.

c) Clearly outline the standards and procedures for a survivor to receive a forensic medical examination, as defined in R.S. 15:622, to ensure access to such an examination in every parish. The plan shall designate a hospital or healthcare provider to be the lead entity for sexual assault examinations for adult survivors and a hospital or healthcare provider to be the lead entity for sexual assault examinations for pediatric survivors. The plan shall also include specific details directing first responders in the transport of survivors of a sexually oriented crime, the appropriate party to perform the forensic medical examination, and any required training for a person performing a forensic medical examination.

d) Clearly outline the standards and procedures for the handling and payment of medical bills related to the forensic medical examination to clarify and ensure that those standards and procedures are in compliance with this Section and any other applicable section of law.

e) Clearly outline the standards and procedures for the transfer of sexual assault collection kits pursuant to ACT No. 669 of the Louisiana 2024 Regular Session and any other applicable sections of law. ACT No. 669 E.(2)e

The ***2025 OPH Southeast Region 1 Sexual Assault Response Plan*** outlines the coordinated, multi-disciplinary response of medical professionals, law enforcement agencies, criminal justice personnel, survivor advocacy agencies, crime laboratory personnel, and support agencies to sexual assaults in Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, and Plaquemines Parishes. This consensus regional response plan ensures that survivors of sexual assaults have immediate access to coordinated care that is survivor-centered, respectful, as well as culturally and age appropriate. It also ensures that survivors are provided with complete information about choices and have the autonomy to make informed decisions about the care they want to receive. OPH Region 1 will continue to update the regional sexual assault response plan every year in an effort to improve medical treatment and evidence collection outcomes and to maximize continuity of care for survivors of a sexually oriented criminal offense.

SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The OPH Region 1 *Sexual Assault Response Team* consists of key responders who will ensure that survivors have access to medical, law enforcement, advocacy, and prosecutorial services.

- **4 Coroners**

Name	Jurisdiction
Honorable Dr. Dwight McKenna	Orleans Parish
Honorable Dr. Gerry Cvitanovich	Jefferson Parish
Honorable Dr. Gregory Fernandez	St. Bernard Parish
Honorable Dr. Neil Wolfson	Plaquemines Parish

- **4 District Attorneys**

Name	District	Parishes
Honorable Jason Williams	41st J.D.	Orleans
Honorable Paul D. Connick, Jr	24th J.D.	Jefferson
Honorable Perry M. Nicosia	34th J.D.	St. Bernard
Honorable Charles J. Ballay	25th J.D.	Plaquemines

- **Emergency Medical Services**

Organizations	Parishes
New Orleans EMS	Orleans
East Jefferson EMS	Jefferson
West Jefferson EMS	Jefferson
Plaquemines Fire/EMS	Plaquemines
Gretna Police/EMS	Jefferson
Westwego EMS	Jefferson
Tulane EMS	Orleans
Acadian Ambulance Service	Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard

A-Med Ambulance Service	Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, Plaquemines

- **Hospital Emergency Room (ER) Services**

Region 1 Hospitals/ERs	Location	Parish
University Medical Center	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
New Orleans East Hospital	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
Touro Infirmary	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
Manning Family Children's	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
Ochsner Baptist Hospital	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
Veterans Administration Hospital	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
Lakeside Hospital	Metairie, LA	Jefferson
East Jefferson General Hospital	Metairie, LA	Jefferson
Ochsner Medical Center Kenner	Kenner, LA	Jefferson
Ochsner Medical Center Main Campus	Jefferson, LA	Jefferson
Ochsner Medical Center Westbank	Gretna, LA	Jefferson
West Jefferson Medical Center	Marrero, LA	Jefferson
St. Bernard Parish Hospital	Chalmette, LA	St. Bernard
LCMC Health Emergency Care Downtown -- *"stand-alone" ER*	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
Ochsner Emergency Room Marrero -- *"stand-alone" ER*	Marrero, LA	Jefferson

- **Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis and Advocacy Centers/Programs**

Name	Region 1 Location	Service Area
New Orleans Family Justice Center	New Orleans, LA	***Orleans***
Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response (STAR)	New Orleans, LA	***Orleans, Jefferson***
Morgan Rae Center for Hope Care Medical Clinic	New Orleans, LA	***Orleans, St. Bernard, Plaquemines***
Metro Centers for Community Advocacy	Jefferson, LA	***Jefferson, St. Bernard, Plaquemines***
Jefferson Children's Advocacy Center/JPCO Sexual Assault/Abuse Program	Terrytown, LA	***Jefferson***
Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LaFASA)	No physical location in Region 1	***Statewide***

- **Crime & DNA Labs**

New Orleans Crime Lab	New Orleans, LA
Jefferson Parish Crime Lab	Harvey, LA
Louisiana State Police Crime Lab	Baton Rouge, LA
NOTE: All Sexual assault collection kits are transported to Louisiana State Police Crime Lab in Baton Rouge, LA to be processed. In 2022, grant funding was utilized to purchase proper DNA storage refrigerators for each law enforcement agency to store the forensic medical collection kits.	

- **Law Enforcement**
  - **4 Parish Sheriffs**

Name	District	Parishes Covered
Sheriff Susan Hutson	41st J.D.	Orleans Parish
Sheriff Joseph P. Lopinto III	24th J.D.	Jefferson Parish
Sheriff James Pohlmann	34th J.D.	St. Bernard Parish
Sheriff Gerald A. Turlich	25th J.D.	Plaquemines Parish

  - **6 Local Police Chiefs**

Parish	Name	Jurisdiction
ORLEANS	Superintendent Anne E. Kirkpatrick	New Orleans Police Department
JEFFERSON	Chief Scooter Resweber	Grand Isle Police Department
	Chief Arthur Lawson	Gretna Police Department
	Chief Edward Lepre	Harahan Police Department
	Chief Keith Conley	Kenner Police Department
	Chief Dwayne J. Munch Sr.	Westwego Police Department

- **Higher Education**

Name	Location	Parish
Tulane University	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
Xavier University	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
Loyola University	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
University of New Orleans	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
Dillard University	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
Delgado Community College	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
Louisiana State University (LSU) Health Sciences SANE Grant Program	New Orleans, LA	Orleans

- **Local School Boards**

Name	Location	Parish
Orleans Parish School Board	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
Jefferson Parish Public School System	New Orleans, LA	Jefferson
St. Bernard Parish School District	New Orleans, LA	St. Bernard
Plaquemines Parish School Board	New Orleans, LA	Plaquemines

FME STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

This section clearly outlines the standards and procedures for a survivor to receive a forensic medical examination, as defined in Louisiana R.S. 15:622, to ensure access to such an examination in every parish in OPH Region 1.

1. *DESIGNATED LEAD MEDICAL ENTITIES/FACILITIES AND PROVIDERS*

In OPH Region 1, the coroners and SAR stakeholders have designated the following hospitals and healthcare providers to serve as lead entities to perform the medical screenings and forensic medical exams.

FOR ADULTS (aged 18 years and older)

- **OPH Region 1** ***Designated Lead Healthcare Provider(s) for FMEs:***
  - The coroners and SAR stakeholders in Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes have designated the following lead hospitals/healthcare providers for FMEs:

Designated Lead Healthcare Provider for FMEs and Medical Screenings	Location	Parish
University Medical Center	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
Lakeside Hospital	Metairie, LA	Jefferson
Ochsner Main Campus	Jefferson, LA	Jefferson
New Orleans Family Justice Center ***(after 48-72 hours of occurrence, non-emergent clients)***	New Orleans, LA	Orleans

- **OPH Region 1** ***Medical Facilities for Medical Screenings:***
  - *All emergency rooms (ERs)* in the 13 full service hospitals and the 2 stand-alone ERs in Region 1 are entities for medical screenings. (see chart below)

Region 1 Hospitals/ERs	Location	Parish
University Medical Center	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
New Orleans East Hospital	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
Touro Infirmary	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
Children's Hospital New Orleans	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
Ochsner Baptist Hospital	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
Veterans Administration Hospital	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
Lakeside Hospital	Metairie, LA	Jefferson
East Jefferson General Hospital/ ****JPCO Traveling SANE Program**	Metairie, LA	Jefferson
Ochsner Medical Center Kenner/ ****JPCO Traveling SANE Program**	Kenner, LA	Jefferson
Ochsner Medical Center Main Campus/ ****JPCO Traveling SANE Program**	Jefferson, LA	Jefferson
Ochsner Medical Center Westbank/ ****JPCO Traveling SANE Program**	Gretna, LA	Jefferson
West Jefferson Medical Center/	Marrero, LA	Jefferson

****JPCO Traveling SANE Program**		
St. Bernard Parish Hospital	Chalmette, LA	St. Bernard
LCMC Health Emergency Care Downtown -- *"stand-alone" ER*	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
Ochsner Emergency Room Marrero – *"stand-alone" ER/* ****JPCO Traveling SANE Program**	Marrero, LA	Jefferson

** While Lakeside Hospital remains the preferred hospital for acute SANE exams in Jefferson Parish, the Jefferson Parish Coroner's Office (JPCO) SANE program has expanded to become a traveling program which will respond to the following hospitals to provide services: Ochsner Main Campus, East Jefferson General Hospital, Ochsner Medical Center Kenner, Ochsner Medical Center Westbank, West Jefferson Medical Center, Ochsner Emergency Room Marrero. JPCO SANE Services may be requested by hospital medical providers by calling (504) 365-9199 24/7.

- **OPH Region 1** ***Lead Healthcare Provider(s) for Medical Screenings:***
  - *All ER physicians and healthcare provider(s)authorized to perform medical screenings who work in the Region 1 medical facilities, and is on duty* when a sexual assault survivor presents to the ER, will perform the medical screening.

FOR CHILDREN (under age 18 years)*:*

If a pediatric sexual assault (SA) survivor presents to one of the hospital ERs in OPH Region 1, including the stand-alone ER, then the ER M.D. must perform the medical screenings/exams of the child to address any emergent/immediate medical needs and clear them (if possible, at that time) for the forensic medical exam to be performed at the designated facility/entity for pediatric FMEs. NOTE: A pediatric SA survivor's advocate should be present for all medical screenings and FMEs.

- **OPH Region 1** ***Designated Lead Medical Facility for ACUTE*** **Pediatric FMEs*:***

Parish	Designated Lead Medical Facility for ACUTE Pediatric FMEs and Medical Screenings
Orleans Parish	Morgan Rae Center for Hope Care Medical Clinic: Business Hours Manning Family Children's ER: After Hours and Weekends
Jefferson Parish	Manning Family Children's
St. Bernard Parish	Morgan Rae Center for Hope Care Medical Clinic: Business Hours Manning Family Children's ER: After Hours and Weekends
Plaquemines Parish	Morgan Rae Center for Hope Care Medical Clinic: Business Hours Manning Family Children's ER: After Hours and Weekends

- **OPH Region 1** ***Designated Lead Medical Facility for SUB-/ NON-ACUTE*** **Pediatric FMEs**

Parish	Lead Medical Facility for *Sub-Acute FMEs only*
Orleans Parish	Morgan Rae Center for Hope Care Medical Clinic: Business Hours Manning Family Children's ER: After Hours and Weekends
Jefferson Parish	Jefferson Child Advocacy Center: Business Hours Manning Family Children's ER: After Hours and Weekends
St. Bernard Parish	Morgan Rae Center for Hope Care Medical Clinic: Business Hours Manning Family Children's ER: After Hours and Weekends

Plaquemines Parish	Morgan Rae Center for Hope Care Medical Clinic: Business Hours Manning Family Children's ER: After Hours and Weekends

- **OPH Region 1** ***Medical Facilities for Pediatric <u>Medical Screenings</u>:***
  - *<u>All emergency rooms (ERs)</u>* in the 13 full service hospitals and the 2 stand-alone ERs in Region 1 are entities for medical screenings. (See chart below)

Region 1 Hospitals/ERs	Location	Parish
University Medical Center	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
New Orleans East Hospital	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
Touro Infirmary	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
Manning Family Children's	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
Ochsner Baptist Hospital	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
Veterans Administration Hospital	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
Lakeside Hospital	Metairie, LA	Jefferson
East Jefferson General Hospital	Metairie, LA	Jefferson
Ochsner Medical Center Kenner	Kenner, LA	Jefferson
Ochsner Medical Center Main Campus	Jefferson, LA	Jefferson
Ochsner Medical Center Westbank	Gretna, LA	Jefferson
West Jefferson Medical Center	Marrero, LA	Jefferson
St. Bernard Parish Hospital	Chalmette, LA	St. Bernard
LCMC Health Emergency Care Downtown -- *"stand-alone" ER*	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
Ochsner Emergency Room Marrero – *"stand-alone" ER*	Marrero, LA	Jefferson

2. <u>TRANSPORTATION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS</u>

An emergency medical unit and/or law enforcement unit will be dispatched per 911 dispatch protocols for adult and pediatric sexual assault/injuries.

- ***<u>EMS First Responders</u>*** *(<u>acute</u> cases only)**:***
  - For Adults/Older Adolescents: **In OPH Region 1**, sexual assault survivors should be transported *<u>to the nearest designated lead medical facility</u>* in the region where medical screening and forensic sexual assault evidence exams are performed, unless injury severity dictates otherwise or the survivor chooses a different facility in the region. A primary caregiver, family member or friend, who is not the suspected perpetrator, should be allowed to accompany the SA (sexual assault) survivor in the emergency medical unit.
  - For Children: **In OPH Region 1,** all pediatric survivors of sexual assault should be transported by EMS *<u>to the nearest designated lead medical facil</u>*ity in the region for a medical screening, unless injury severity dictates otherwise or the survivor's parent/caregiver chooses a different facility. Once cleared by the ER physician,

pediatric survivors are to be transported by EMS to a lead medical facility designated for ACUTE pediatric FMEs. EMS transportation arrangements are the responsibility of the transferring ER. A parent or primary caregiver, who is not the suspected perpetrator, should be allowed to accompany the child in the emergency medical unit.

NOTE: *EMS transports acute SA survivors to designated medical facilities. Also, if the patient needs to be transported to a different medical facility, then the* ***hospital must call and relay to EMS that the person to be transported is a sexual assault survivor****.*

- **Law Enforcement** *(acute* ***and*** *non-acute cases):* **In OPH Region 1,** if law enforcement must provide transportation of a medically stable SA survivor *to or from a medical facility*, then an unmarked vehicle should be used, if available, especially when transporting a child. A parent or primary caregiver, who is not the suspected perpetrator, should be allowed to accompany the child SA survivor in the vehicle, and a family member or friend should be allowed to accompany an adult SA survivor.

  NOTE: *For SA patients discharged from the hospital (ER), transportation may be provided by a family member, friend, SA advocate who was called to the hospital for support, and, in some cases, by the local police/sheriff's department.*

3. THE FORENSIC MEDICAL EXAM AND EVIDENCE COLLECTION

(per R.S 40:1216.1 & ACT No. 669)

A. For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply :

- "Sexually oriented criminal offense" has the same meaning as defined in R.S. 15:622.
- "Emergency contraception" means only drugs approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration with mechanisms of action that likely include the prevention of ovulation, sperm capacitation, or fertilization after sexual intercourse and do not meet the definition of a legend drug as defined in R.S. 22 40:1060.11. (from ACT No. 669)
- "Forensic medical examination" (FME) has the same meaning as defined in R.S. 15:622, which is an examination provided to the survivor of a sexually-oriented criminal offense by a health care provider for the purpose of gathering and preserving evidence of a sexual assault for use in a court of law.
- "Healthcare provider" means either of the following:

  (a) A physician, sexual assault nurse examiner, or other healthcare practitioner licensed, certified, registered, or otherwise authorized and trained to perform a forensic medical examination. SEE APPENDIX B for training guidance.

  (b) A facility or institution providing healthcare services, including but not limited to a hospital or other licensed inpatient center; ambulatory surgical or treatment center; skilled nursing facility; inpatient hospice facility; residential treatment center; diagnostic, laboratory, or imaging center or rehabilitation or other therapeutic health setting.
- "Healthcare services" means services, items, supplies, or drugs for the diagnosis, prevention, treatment, cure, or relief of a health condition, illness, injury, or disease ancillary to a sexually-oriented criminal offense.
- "Sexual assault collection kit" includes all evidence collected during a forensic medical examination.
- "Unreported sexual assault collection kit" means a sexual assault collection kit where a law enforcement agency has not received a related report or complaint alleging that a sexual assault has occurred.

B. Healthcare Services for Survivors of Sexually Oriented Criminal Offenses

In OPH Region 1, all licensed hospitals and healthcare providers shall adhere to the following procedures if a person, presents for treatment as a sexual assault survivor:

1. Sexual assault patients should be ***viewed as "priority emergency cases"*** in Region 1. All sexual assault survivors shall be examined and treated, without undue delay, in a private space required to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the survivor by a qualified healthcare provider. In Region 1, the survivor should not be left alone.
2. Examination and treatment, including the forensic medical examination, shall be adapted as necessary to address the unique needs and circumstances of each survivor.
3. ***A sign language or foreign language interpreter*** must be made available, upon request, to be present during medical and advocacy services in the ER. A language line, though not ideal, is an acceptable alternative to a language interpreter being present in the ER.
4. A SA/Rape Crisis Advocate--All survivors shall be afforded an advocate whose communications are privileged in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 46:2187, if one is available. With the consent of the survivor, an advocate shall remain in the examination room during the forensic medical examination. In Region 1, all sexual assault advocates should be trained and should pass a background check through their respective agencies. SEE APPENDIX B for training guidance.
5. With the consent of the survivor, the examination and treatment of all sexual assault survivors shall, at a minimum, include all of the following:
   (a) Examination of physical trauma.
   (b) Patient interview, including medical history, triage, and consultation.
   (c) Collection and evaluation of evidence, including but not limited to the following:
      (i) Photographic documentation.
      (ii) Preservation and maintenance of chain of custody.
      (iii) Medical specimen collection.
      (iv) When determined necessary by the healthcare provider, an alcohol or drug-facilitated sexual assault assessment and toxicology screening.

(d) Any testing related to the sexual assault or recommended by the healthcare provider.

(e) Any medication provided during the forensic medical examination, which may include emergency contraception and HIV or STI prophylaxis.

6. ***Reporting:*** A survivor shall decide whether or not the incident will be reported to law enforcement officials. No hospital or healthcare provider shall require the survivor to report the incident to receive medical attention or collect evidence.

> *EXCEPTIONS TO REPORTING:*
>
> - *If a person under the age of 18 years presents for treatment as a sexual assault survivor, the hospital or healthcare provider shall* ***immediately notify*** *the appropriate law enforcement agency or any other official necessary to fulfill any mandatory reporting obligation required by law. (*§14:403 Criminal; Art. 610, 609 & 603 Louisiana Children's Code)
> - *If a survivor is physically or mentally incapable of making the decision to report, the hospital or healthcare provider shall* ***immediately notify*** *the appropriate law enforcement officials.*

7. ***Notification of Law Enforcement:***
   - If the survivor ***wishes to report*** the incident to law enforcement, the hospital or healthcare provider shall contact the appropriate law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the location where the crime occurred. If the location where the crime occurred cannot be determined, the hospital or healthcare provider shall contact the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the location where the forensic medical examination is performed to determine the appropriate investigating agency. **In OPH Region 1**, the hospital or healthcare provider shall contact the appropriate law enforcement agency and shall coordinate the transfer of the evidence with the law enforcement agency in a manner designed to protect its evidentiary integrity. (See pg.19-Evidence Chain of Custody and law enforcement jurisdictions)
   - If the survivor ***does not*** *wish to report* the incident to law enforcement, the hospital or healthcare provider shall, upon completion of the FME, contact the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the location where the FME was

performed to transfer possession of the unreported sexual assault collection kit for storage. (See pg.19-Evidence Chain of Custody and law enforcement jurisdictions)

- The hospital or healthcare provider staff member who notifies the appropriate law enforcement official shall document the date, time, and method of notification and the name of the official who received the notification.
- Any member of the hospital staff or a healthcare provider who in good faith notifies the appropriate law enforcement official pursuant to ACT No. 669 (A)(1) shall have immunity from any civil liability that otherwise might be incurred or imposed because of the notification. Immunity shall extend to participation in any judicial proceeding resulting from the report.
- On or before January first of each year, each law enforcement agency shall provide each hospital located in its respective jurisdiction with the name of the responsible contact person along with the responsible person's contact information.

8. ***Forensic Medical Examinations***

Hospitals and healthcare providers shall follow the procedures outlined in R.S. 40:1216.1 and in ACT No. 669 for performing an FME for a survivor who *does not* wish to report the incident to law enforcement officials; for a survivor who *does* wish to report the incident to law enforcement; for a child survivor under age 18 years; and for a survivor who is physically or mentally incapable of making the decision to report.

- No hospital or healthcare provider shall refuse to examine and assist a survivor on the grounds the alleged offense occurred outside of or the survivor is not a resident of the jurisdiction.
- Upon completion of the FME, if the ***survivor wishes to report*** the incident to law enforcement, then the sexual assault collection kit shall be turned over to the investigating law enforcement agency. The healthcare provider shall enter all required information into the statewide sexual assault collection kit tracking system operated by the Office of State Police, pursuant to R.S. 15:624.1. See Chain of Custody of Evidence on pg. 19
- Upon completion of the FME, if the ***survivor does not wish to report*** the incident to law enforcement, then the hospital or healthcare provider shall contact the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the location where the FME was

performed to transfer possession of the unreported sexual assault collection kit for storage. See Chain of Custody of Evidence on pg. 19

- The unreported sexual assault collection kit shall not be identified or labeled with the survivor's identifying information.
- The hospital or healthcare provider shall maintain a record of the sexual assault collection kit number in the survivor's record that shall be used for identification should the survivor later choose to report the incident.
- The healthcare provider shall provide all required information by the statewide sexual assault collection kit tracking system operated by the Office of State Police, pursuant to R.S. 15:624.1.

NOTE: The statewide sexual assault collection kit tracking system shall

1. Track the location status of the kits throughout the criminal justice process, including the initial collection performed at medical facilities, receipt and storage at law enforcement agencies, receipt and analysis at forensic laboratories, and storage or destruction after completion of analysis.
2. Designate sexual assault collection kits as unreported or reported.
3. Indicate whether a sexual assault collection kit contains biological materials collected for the purpose of forensic toxicological analysis.
4. Allow medical facilities performing sexual assault forensic examinations, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, the Louisiana State Police, Crime Laboratory, all other forensic crime laboratories in the state, and other entities having custody of sexual assault collection kits to update and track the status and location of sexual assault collection kits.
5. Allow survivors of sexual assault to anonymously track or receive updates regarding the status of their sexual assault collection kits.
6. Use electronic technology allowing continuous access.

- The collected FME/sexual assault collection kits should be stored in a secure location in the hospital or medical facility that ensures proper chain of custody until the evidence is transferred to the law enforcement agency.

- No sexual assault collection kit shall remain at a hospital or medical facility if the hospital or medical facility is unable to store the sexual assault kit in a secure location that ensures proper chain of custody.
  See Chain of Custody of Evidence on pg. 19

- A healthcare provider working for a coroner's office may store the sexual assault collection kit in a secure location maintained by the coroner.

9. ***Post-Examination, Emergency Contraception, and Follow-up Care***
   - Forensic medical examiners are responsible for documenting the details of the medical forensic exam and treatment provided in the medical record, as well as documenting required data for the SA collection kit. All forms should be checked for completeness of information and signatures.
   - The survivor shall be provided with information about ***emergency contraception***, and the treating healthcare provider shall inform the survivor of the option to be provided emergency contraception at the hospital or healthcare facility and, upon the completion of a pregnancy test yielding a negative result, shall provide emergency contraception upon the request of the survivor.
     - The information about emergency contraception shall be developed and made available electronically to all licensed hospitals in this state through the Louisiana Department of Health's website and by paper form upon request to the department.
   - The survivor shall be provided with information about medical billing. (See pg. 21)
   - Assist the patient with coordination of aftercare, including follow-up medical appointments, counseling/mental health appointments, and transportation home or to a safe location.
     - *Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis and Child Advocacy Centers* should be notified because they can provide advocacy, intervention, and support services to patients, families, hospitals/healthcare providers, and law enforcement. OPH Region 1 has 3 accredited Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis Centers and 2 Child Advocacy Centers. (See chart below for services offered)

Name	Region 1 Service Area(s)	Services
New Orleans Family Justice Center Monday-Friday 9am-5pm Phone: (504)866-9554	***Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, Plaquemines Parishes***	• *Comprehensive Forensic Services including HIV Prophylaxis* • *Acute & Chronic examinations* **Not for patients requiring emergency medical care** • *Repeat/follow-up forensic exams (for survivors already seen at hospital)*
STAR (Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response) 24/7 Crisis Hotline: 1-855-435-STAR (7827) Phone: (504) 407-0711	***Orleans, Jefferson Parishes***	• *Hospital accompaniment* • *Case management services* • *Criminal justice accompaniment* • *Individual and group counseling* • *Legal representation*
Metro Centers for Community Advocacy 24/7 Crisis Hotline: (504) 837-5400 or (800) 411-1333	***Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard Plaquemines Parishes***	• *SANE FMEs at University Medical Center in N.O* • *Counseling Services* • *Legal Advocacy to provide support and representation at court hearings and to assist survivors in filing a Petition for Protection and Temporary Restraining Order* • *Temporary emergency sheltering* • *Human Trafficking and Stalking Advocacy*
Morgan Rae Center for Hope Monday-Friday 8am-4:30pm Phone: (504)894-5484	***Orleans Parish and courtesy forensic interviews for St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parish***	• *Acute exams-when abuse occurred within the last 72 hours or current physical signs or symptoms* • *Delayed reporting/chronic abuse-over 72 hours since sexual contact occurred. Scheduled for next available appointment.* • *Follow-up appointments- two weeks after a survivor is seen in the Manning Family Children's ER or other facilities.* **Not for patients requiring emergency medical care**
Jefferson Child Advocacy Center (JCAC) Monday-Friday 8am-4:30pm Phone: (504) 364-3857	***Jefferson Parish***	• *Non-Acute exams-delayed reporting/chronic abuse-over 72 hours since sexual contact occurred.* • *Follow-up appointments-Two weeks after a survivor is seen in the Manning Family Children's ER or other facilities.*
LaFASA (Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assaults) 24/7 Crisis Hotline (English and Spanish): (888) 995-7273 To text an advocate: (225) 351-SAFE (7233) Mon-Thurs 12n-8pm & Fri-Sun 4pm-12am, with exception of holidays To chat online with an advocate: https://lafasa.org//7main/home Mon-Thurs 12n-8pm & Fri-Sun 4pm-12am, with exception of holidays	***Statewide***	• *Chat and text helplines to converse with a trained crisis support specialist* • *Survivor Advocacy Support* • *University/Campus Advocacy Support-assistance navigating university sexual violence response systems* • *Digital Survivor Resource Center, including written materials (call 225-372-8995 for more information)* • *Accreditation of Local Sexual Assault Centers* • *Civil legal services* *All assistance is strictly confidential, anonymous, and free.*

SEXUAL ASSAULT COLLECTION KITS

1. Contents of the Sexual Assault (SA) Collection Kits

Sexual assault collection kits includes all evidence collected during a forensic medical examination. ***In OPH Region 1***, all sexual assault collection kits used in a forensic medical examination shall continue to meet the standards and requirements developed by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) and the Department of Public Safety and Corrections (DPSC).

2. Purchase and Storage of the SA Collection Kits

In OPH Region 1, all designated lead medical facilities for FMEs (see chart below) will be responsible for the purchase** of the SA collection kits and the storage of the kits prior to use. Vendor selection, SA collection kit selection/ordering, and inventory management of the unused kits are the responsibility of each designated hospital.

****NOTE: Must procure SA collection kits from a state recommended/approved vendor.

Designated Lead Medical Facilities for FMEs	Location	Parish
University Medical Center	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
Manning Family Children's	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
New Orleans Family Justice Center ***(after 48-72 hours of occurrence)***	New Orleans, LA	Orleans
Ochsner Main Campus	Jefferson, LA	Jefferson
Lakeside Hospital	Metairie, LA	Jefferson
Jefferson's Children Advocacy Center ***(Non-Acute)***	Terrytown, LA	Jefferson

CHAIN OF CUSTODY OF EVIDENCE

- **Submission of Sexual Assault Collection Kits to Law Enforcement In OPH Region 1:** Hospitals and healthcare providers will coordinate the transfer of the evidence with the law enforcement agency in a manner designed to protect its evidentiary integrity.

  - In OPH Region 1, the law enforcement agency shall ***retrieve*** *from the hospital or healthcare provider the evidence as soon as possible* after receiving notification from the hospital or healthcare provider that evidence collection is complete and information is entered into the statewide SA collection kit tracking system. (NOTE: ACT 669 states that the investigating law enforcement agency shall take possession of the SA collection kit within 72 hours upon notification of completion of the SA collection kit, if the hospital or medical facility has a secure location to store the SA collection kit that ensures proper chain of custody.)

  - The healthcare provider who performed the FME must place the evidence in a secure location with limited access that ensures proper chain of custody. When law enforcement arrives, the healthcare provider should sign for and retrieve the evidence and provide to law enforcement.

  - No SA collection kit shall remain at a hospital or medical facility if the hospital or medical facility is unable to store the kit in a secure location that ensures proper chain of custody, per Act No. 669.

  - A healthcare provider working for a coroner's office may store the sexual assault collection kit in a secure location maintained by the coroner, per Act No. 669.

  - The healthcare provider who performed the FME must complete and sign the forensic chain of custody form. The form must include the signatures of everyone who has had possession of the evidence, and both signatures (one from the person releasing the evidence and the second from the person receiving it) are required for any transfer. The completed kits and completed collection forms should be handed over to law enforcement when they arrive.

- Upon arrival of law enforcement to the ER, custody of the evidence shall be transferred from the healthcare provider to the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction in the location where the crime occurred. If the location where the crime occurred is unable to be determined, custody of the evidence shall be transferred to the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the location where the FME is performed.

- **Maintenance of Retrieved Sexual Assault Collection Kits**
  - The law enforcement agency shall not destroy or dispose of an unreported sexual assault collection kit for a period of at least twenty (20) years after the FME was performed.

  - If a healthcare provider working for a coroner's office chooses to store an unreported sexual assault collection kit at a coroner's office, the healthcare provider shall not destroy or dispose of an unreported sexual assault collection kit for a period of at least twenty (20) years after the FME was performed.

- **Submission of Sexual Assault Collection Kits to a Forensic Laboratory (per ACT No. 193)**
  - Within thirty days of receiving a sexual assault collection kit for a reported case, the criminal justice agency shall submit the sexual assault collection kit to a forensic laboratory for testing.

1. No hospital or healthcare provider shall directly bill a survivor of a sexually oriented criminal offense for any healthcare services rendered in conducting a forensic medical examination, including the healthcare services rendered in accordance with ACT No. 669, Paragraph 2 of Subsection A and the following:
    - Forensic examiner and hospital or healthcare facility services directly related to the exam, including integral forensic supplies.
    - Scope procedures directly related to the forensic exam including but not limited to anoscopy and colposcopy

2. The healthcare provider who performed the forensic medical exam and the hospital or healthcare facility shall submit a claim for payment for conducting a forensic medical exam directly to the Crime Victim Reparations Board to be paid in strict accordance with the provisions of R.S. 46:1822. A survivor of a sexually oriented criminal offense shall not be billed directly or indirectly for the performance of any forensic medical exam. The provisions of this paragraph shall not be interpreted or construed to apply to either of the following:
    - A healthcare provider billing for any medical services that are not specifically set forth in this Section or provided for diagnosis or treatment of the survivor for injuries related to the sexual assault.
    - A survivor of a sexually oriented criminal offense seeking reparations in accordance with the Crime Victim Reparations Act, R.S. 46:1801 et seq. for the costs for any medical services that are not specifically set forth in this section or provided for the diagnosis or treatment of the survivor for injuries related to the sexual assault.
3. The Department (LDH) shall make available to every hospital and healthcare provider licensed under the laws of this state a pamphlet containing an explanation of the billing process for services rendered.
    - Every hospital and healthcare provider shall provide a copy of the pamphlet (SEE APPENDIX C) to any person presented for treatment as a survivor of a sexually oriented criminal offense.

SURVIVORS' ACCESS TO FME DOCUMENTATION

1. Upon request of a competent adult survivor of a sexually oriented criminal offense, the healthcare provider that performed the forensic medical exam shall provide a reproduction of any written documentation which is in the possession of the healthcare provider resulting from the forensic medical exam of the survivor. The documentation shall be provided to the survivor no later than fourteen (14) days after the healthcare provider receives the request or the healthcare provider completes the documentation, whichever is later.

2. The reproduction of written documentation shall be made available at no cost to the survivor and may only be released at the direction of the survivor who is a competent adult. This release does not invalidate the survivor's reasonable expectation of privacy nor does the record become a public record after the release to the survivor.

SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS' BILL OF RIGHTS

A sexual assault survivor shall have the following rights:

1. The right not to be prevented from, or charged for, receiving a forensic medical exam as provided in R.S. 40:1216.1.
2. The right to have an unreported sexual assault collection kit preserved, without charge, for at least twenty years.
3. The right to be informed of any results, updates, status, location, and tracking as provided in R.S. 15:624.1.
4. The right to be informed in writing of policies governing the collection and preservation of a sexual assault collection kit.
5. The right to be informed in writing from the appropriate official not later than sixty days before the date of the intended destruction or disposal of a sexual assault collection kit, and upon written request, the ability to be granted further preservation of the kit or its probative contents.
6. The right to be notified of the ability to request the presence of a sexual assault advocate before the administration of a forensic medical examination or a scheduled interview by a law enforcement official if a sexual assault advocate is reasonably available.

7. The right to have access to and obtain a copy of their forensic medical examination report at no cost to them pursuant to R.S. 40:1216.1(G).
8. The right not to be requested or required to submit to a polygraph examination as a condition of an investigation or prosecution as provided in R.S. 15:241.
9. The right to receive, at no cost, a copy of any records or investigative reports from law enforcement when those records are provided to the defendant through discovery or a year after the offense was reported, whichever is sooner.
10. The right to have privileged communications with a representative or employee of a sexual assault center as provided in R.S. 46:2187.
11. The right not to have the survivor's DNA obtained from a sexual assault collection kit compared with other DNA records to investigate the survivor as provided in R.S. 15:622.1.
12. The right to retain any other rights that a survivor may have under any other law of this state.

Any complaint about a violation of this Section may be submitted directly to the Senate Select Committee on Women and Children for legislative oversight.

Per ACT No. 669 (2024 Regular Session):

• For hospitals, failure to comply with the standards in R.S. 40:1216.1 shall constitute grounds for denial, suspension, or revocation of license.

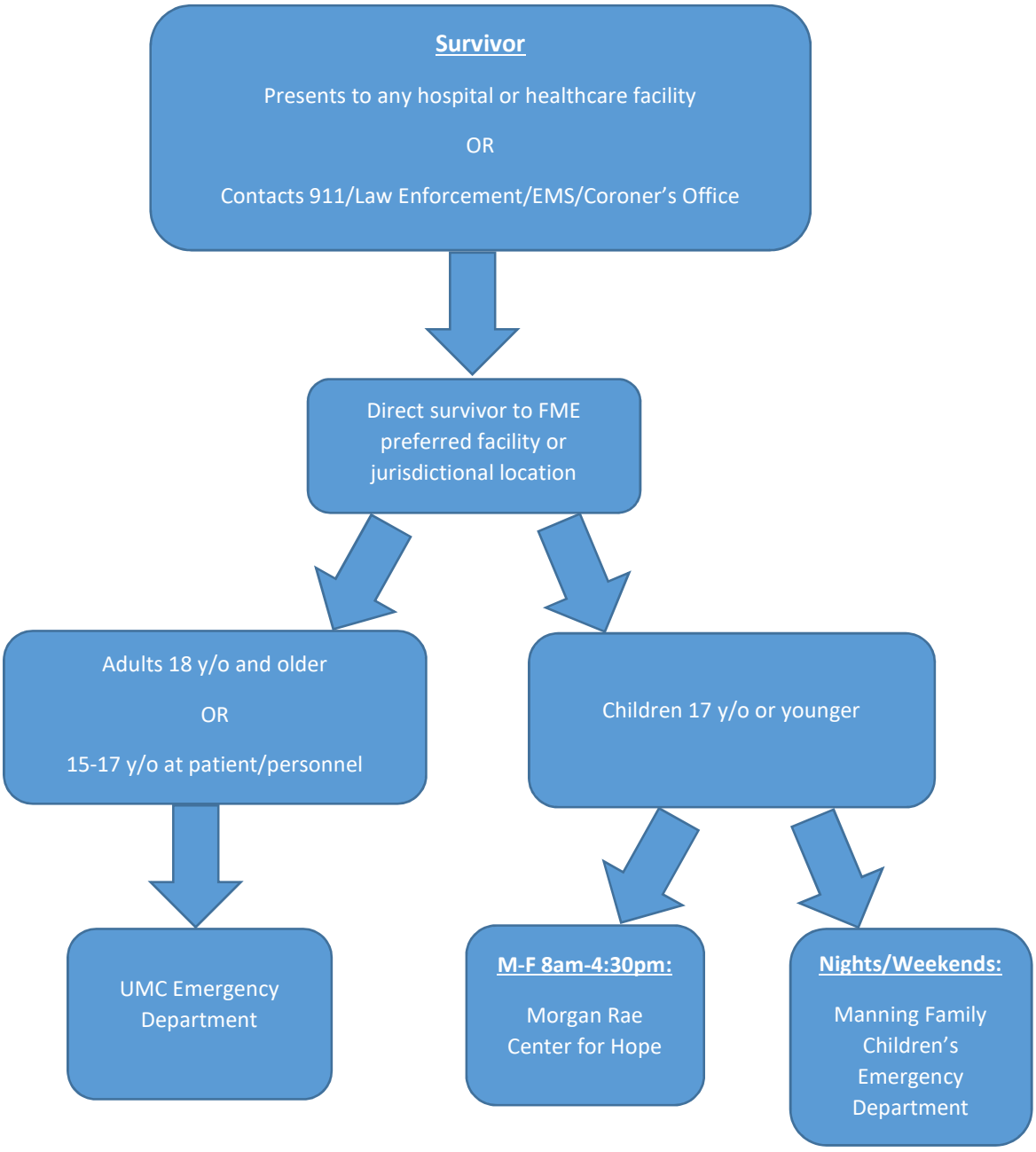
• Also, failure to comply may constitute grounds for denial, suspension, or revocation of the healthcare provider's license by the appropriate licensing board or commission.

Per ACT No. 354 (2024 Regular Session):

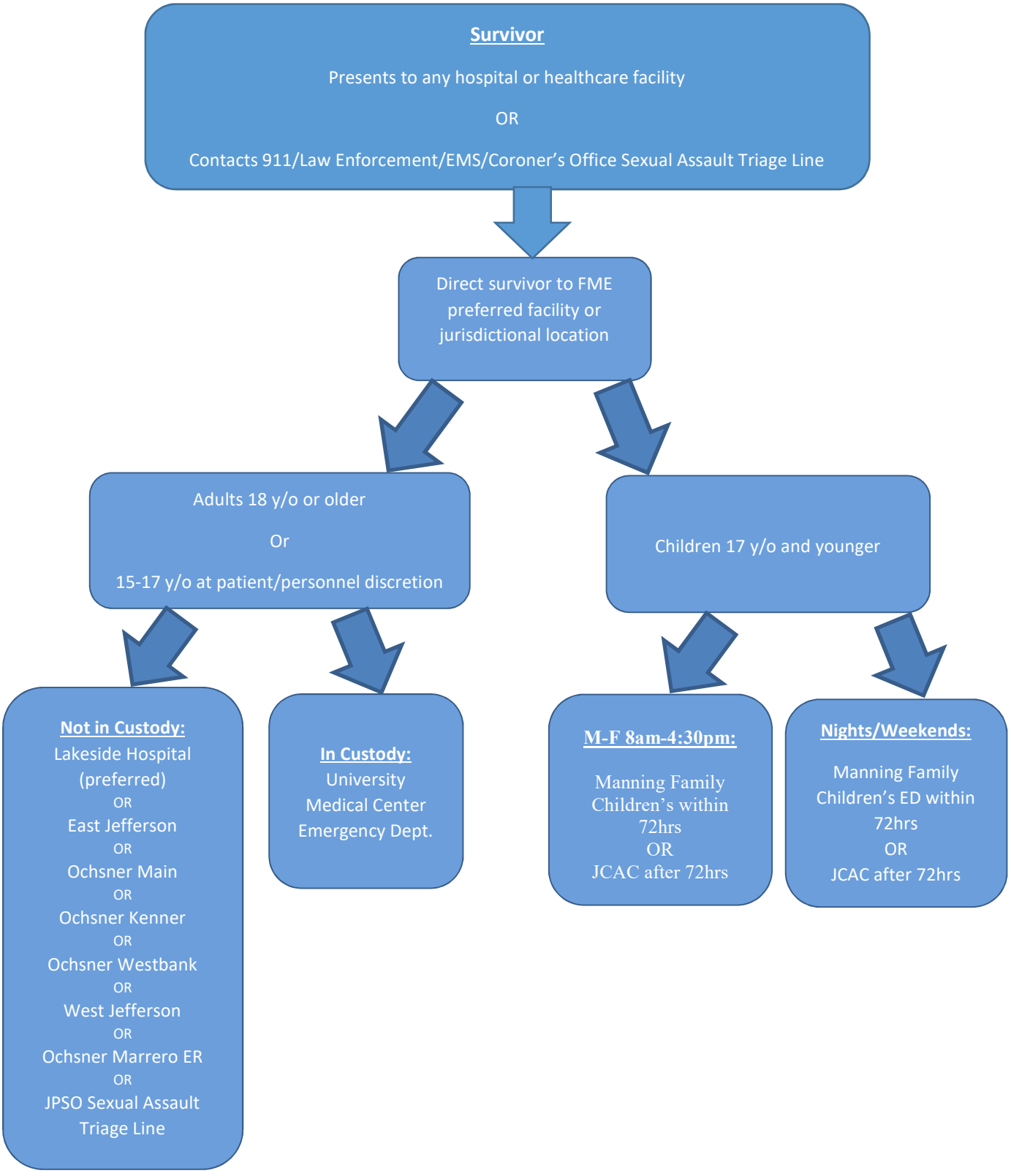
• The coroner shall implement, fulfill, and comply with all obligations, duties, and requirements imposed upon him by R.S. 40:1216.1 and by the regional sexual assault response plan approved for the coroner's health service district pursuant thereto, which the coroner shall annually sign to indicate his approval pursuant to R.S.40:1216.1(E)(4) SEE APPENDIX G for coroners' signatures

APPENDIX A: REGION 1 SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE PROTOCOL

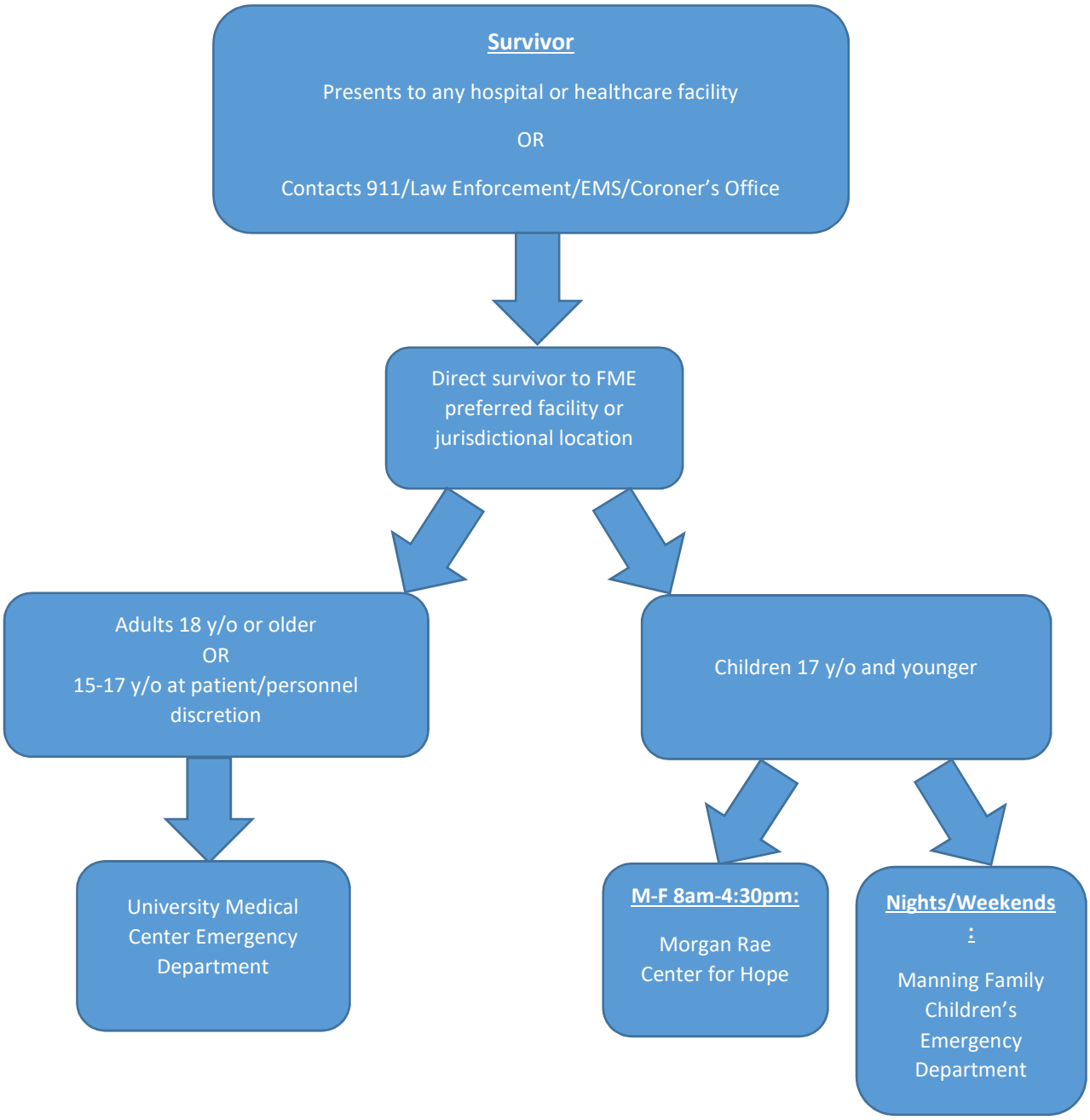
ORLEANS PARISH



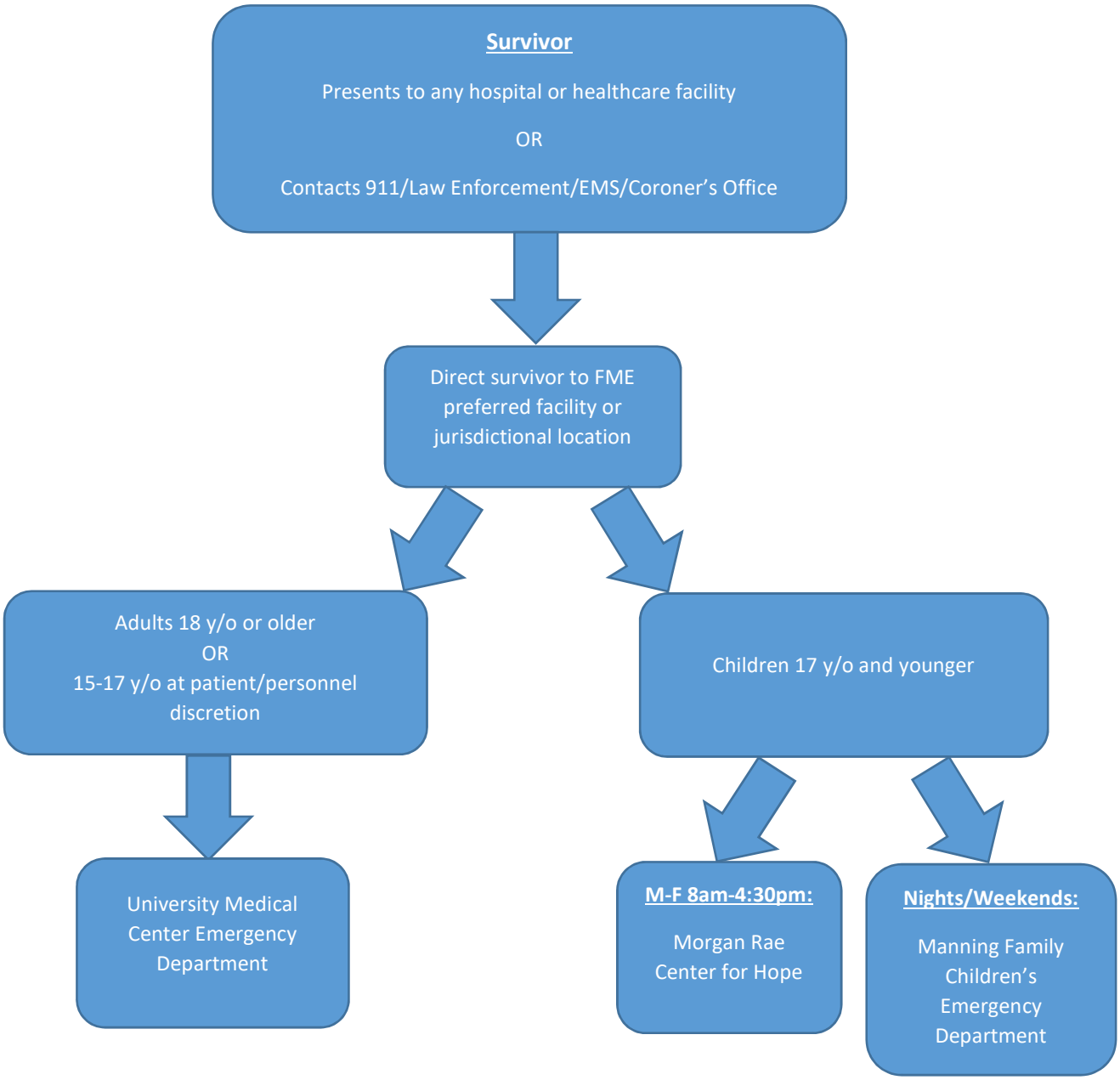
JEFFERSON PARISH



ST. BERNARD PARISH



PLAQUEMINES PARISH



APPENDIX B: FME TRAINING GUIDANCE FOR DESIGNATED HEALTH PROVIDERS

Trainings should include, but is not limited to, sections of the annual OPH Region 1 SAR Plan (SA response resources and infrastructure; SA collection kits; FME standards and procedures; chain of custody of evidence; medical billing & payment standards and procedures; survivors' access to FME documentation; sexual assault survivor's bill of rights). Training requirements apply to staff in designated medical facilities who are newly hired, contracted, full-time and part-time and should take place upon hiring for all staff and then at least annually.

- **Designated medical facilities** should also ensure staff trainings on their respective current policies and procedures for the provision of timely, private, comprehensive, coordinated, survivor-centered medical services, referrals, and follow-up care to adult, adolescent, and child survivors of sexual assault and for the appropriate billing of applicable medical services/FMEs so that SA survivors are never billed
- **Designated healthcare providers** from any discipline providing sexual assault FMEs should also be trained on conducting a SA interview/history and FME, and on the collection, documentation, preservation, and chain of custody of physical evidence. Training should also include use of all equipment and supplies required during the exam, including the SA collection kit contents, medical lab diagnostics and drug testing, medication prophylaxis treatment.
    - ***Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE)***: Registered nurses who have completed specialized education and hands on clinical preparation in the medical forensic care of the patient who has experienced sexual assault or abuse. SANEs provide patient-centered, comprehensive forensic medical exams, which may include forensic evidence collection and documentation; perform referrals for appropriate medical and psychosocial follow-up; and are also prepared to testify in a criminal or civil trial as a fact or expert witness.
        - To become a SANE, one must practice clinically as a Registered Nurse (RN) for no less than two years, complete a didactic SANE course, and complete clinical education and preceptorship as outlined in the most current edition of the *International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) Education Guidelines*. To

become certified as a SANE-A® (SANE Adult/Adolescent) &/or SANE-P® (SANE Pediatric), a SANE must meet the eligibility requirements and must also pass the certification written exam developed by the IAFN Forensic Nursing Certification Board and the Center for Nursing Education and Testing.

- ***Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFEs)*** are physicians and licensed registered nurses, advanced practice nurse practitioners, and physicians' assistants who have completed specialized education and hands on clinical preparation in the medical forensic care of the patient who has experienced sexual assault or abuse.

- **Sexual Assault (Survivors') Advocates** should receive a minimum of 40 hours of sexual assault advocacy training provided by an accredited rape-crisis center and/or designated parish approved course(s). In addition, advocate training should also include human trafficking (i.e. The NHTTAC or National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center's free training at https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/training/soar-health-and-wellness-training/soar-online). Advocates should be trained to provide survivors with confidential, non-judgmental, calm emotional support; to provide crisis intervention when survivors arrive for treatment; to assist survivors in understanding the medical and evidence collection procedures, as well as medical and legal options; to provide support to family members and friends; to provide accompaniment through the legal system; and to provide relevant information and community resources. Also, they should be trained in the policies and procedures of the local hospitals to which they respond.

APPENDIX C: LDH PAMPHLET/ "SURVIVOR'S GUIDE"

https://ldh.la.gov/assets/medicaid/hss/docs/HSS_Hospital/Survivors_Guide.pdf

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SURVIVOR'S GUIDE:

What to know after rape or sexual assault

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

You are not alone!

Emergency room health professionals and counselors from the Rape Crisis Center (Sexual Assault Response Team) are here to help you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. These services are **free** and **private**.

You do not have to go through this alone. Ask the nurse or doctor at this healthcare facility to contact a rape counselor (sexual assault advocate). This counselor will talk to you about all of your options. They can explain what choices you have and help you make decisions that you are comfortable with.

The health care providers and rape counselors will care for you with dignity and compassion.

These are some important things you should know:

- You do not have to report your assault to the police to get a forensic medical exam.
- Health care providers will explain any examinations, procedures or treatments before being done. You have the right to not do anything you are uncomfortable doing.
- If you want to report the sexual assault to the police, you may have someone with you while making the report.
- Personally-identifiable information will be kept private.

The law does not allow a hospital or health care provider to bill you for a forensic medical exam or related services.

Forensic medical exams and related services are free. They include:

- Lab tests and screenings related to the exam,
- Medicine provided during the exam, and
- Services related to the exam.

If you receive a bill, you may file a complaint with the Louisiana Department of Health by **emailing HSSComplaints@la.gov** or **calling 866-280-7737.**

If you have insurance, with your consent, the provider may bill your health insurance company.

- Louisiana law states that you do not have to pay anything.
- Your insurance company will only send an explanation of what services you were billed for to an address you choose. You may decide you do not want this.
- The provider may also bill Medicaid, Medicare or Tricare if you are enrolled in one of these.

If you get a bill for any non-covered medical services other than the forensic medical exam, you may be able to get these bills paid by the Crime Victims Reparations Board (not to exceed $1,000). For information about what costs are covered or how to apply for help, visit their website at **www.lcle.state.la.us/programs/cvr.asp** or call **(888) 6-VICTIM (888-684-2846).**

Emergency Contraception (EC) is a safe way to reduce the chance of getting pregnant after rape or sexual assault.

EC works by delaying the release of an egg (ovulation). There are two ways to obtain EC: 1) over the counter, and 2) provider prescription.

- During your visit with the healthcare provider, the option of taking EC will be discussed. It is your decision if you would like to take EC to delay the release of an egg (ovulation).
- Emergency contraception will not work if you are already pregnant. If your pregnancy test is negative, the healthcare provider will discuss and offer EC. If you take EC and you are early in your pregnancy, EC will not harm or end a pregnancy.
- If you have any concerns about EC, feel free to discuss them with your provider.

This information is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute providing medical advice or professional services. Please consult with a medical professional to determine what is right for you.

Important numbers:

National Sexual Assault Hotline: (800) 656-4673

Crime Victims Reparations Board: (888) 684-2846

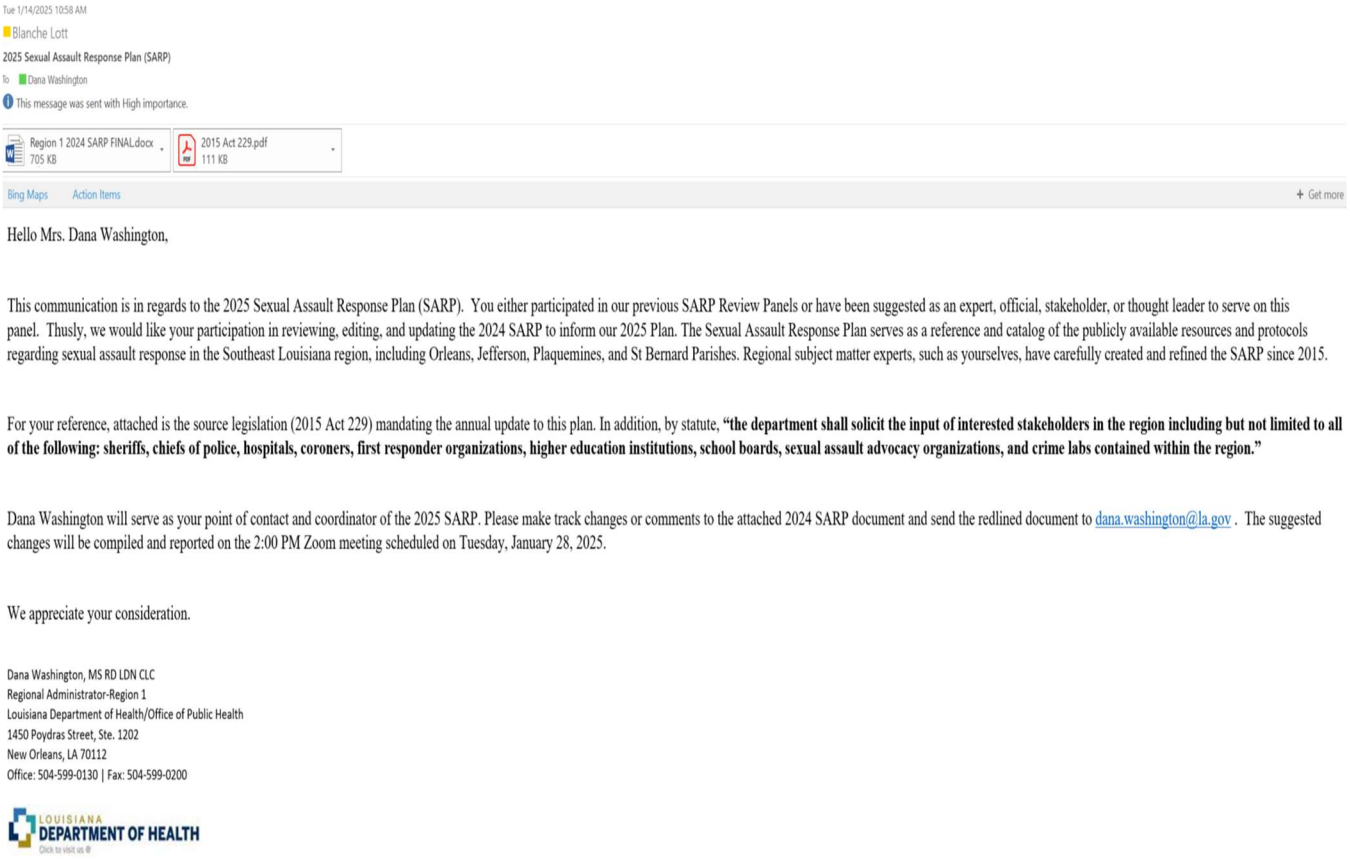
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

This publication was produced in compliance with Act 513 of the 2022 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. This Act amends the provisions of La. R.S. 40:1216.1.

April 2023

APPENDIX D: PLANNING MEETING NOTICES & LIST OF INVITEES

Meeting Notice



Tue 1/14/2025 10:58 AM

Blanche Lott

2025 Sexual Assault Response Plan (SARP)

To Dana Washington

This message was sent with High importance.

Region 1 2024 SARP FINAL.docx 705 KB

2015 Act 229.pdf 111 KB

Bing Maps Action Items + Get more

Hello Mrs. Dana Washington,

This communication is in regards to the 2025 Sexual Assault Response Plan (SARP). You either participated in our previous SARP Review Panels or have been suggested as an expert, official, stakeholder, or thought leader to serve on this panel. Thusly, we would like your participation in reviewing, editing, and updating the 2024 SARP to inform our 2025 Plan. The Sexual Assault Response Plan serves as a reference and catalog of the publicly available resources and protocols regarding sexual assault response in the Southeast Louisiana region, including Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, and St Bernard Parishes. Regional subject matter experts, such as yourselves, have carefully created and refined the SARP since 2015.

For your reference, attached is the source legislation (2015 Act 229) mandating the annual update to this plan. In addition, by statute, **"the department shall solicit the input of interested stakeholders in the region including but not limited to all of the following: sheriffs, chiefs of police, hospitals, coroners, first responder organizations, higher education institutions, school boards, sexual assault advocacy organizations, and crime labs contained within the region."**

Dana Washington will serve as your point of contact and coordinator of the 2025 SARP. Please make track changes or comments to the attached 2024 SARP document and send the redlined document to dana.washington@la.gov . The suggested changes will be compiled and reported on the 2:00 PM Zoom meeting scheduled on Tuesday, January 28, 2025.

We appreciate your consideration.

Dana Washington, MS RD LDN CLC
Regional Administrator-Region 1
Louisiana Department of Health/Office of Public Health
1450 Poydras Street, Ste. 1202
New Orleans, LA 70112
Office: 504-599-0130 | Fax: 504-599-0200

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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APPENDIX E: PLANNING MEETING LIST OFATTENDEES

Meeting Date: 1/28/2025	Meeting Location: Virtual: Zoom https://zoom.us/j/98670603671	
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Danielle Navarro	Plaquemines Parish Public Health Nurse	dnavarro@ppgov.net 504-934-6690
Ariel White	Orleans DA's Office SAKI Program.	awhite@orleansda.com
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Robyn Burchfield, RN, NRP	New Orleans EMS (NOEMS Patient Advocacy & Community Health)	raburchfield@nola.gov (504)717-9142
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Dominique Burns	Children's Hospital New Orleans Child Advocacy and CARE Medical Clinic	Dominique.burns@lcmchealth.org
Ariane Bell	New Orleans Family Justice Center Sexual Assault Program Director	abell@nofjc.org
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Lt. Jamey Perque	JPSO Crime Scene Commander	Perque_jd@jpso.com
Greg Fernandez	St. Bernard Parish Coroner	gfernandez@sbpco.org
Lt. David Ray	JPSO, Commander Special Victims Section	Ray_rd@jpso.com
Cedric Gray	JPSO	
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DA Jason Williams	New Orleans District Attorney	jrw@orleansda.com
Captain Stephanie Minto-Gibson	Director of Crime Victims Reparations, Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office	mintos@opso.us
Tara Gauthier	LCMC Health	Tara.Gauthier@lcmchealth.org
Blanche Lott	LDH/OPH/Region 1	blanche.lott@la.gov

APPENDIX F: REGION 1 CORONERS' SIGNATURES OF APPROVAL of 2025 REGION 1 SAR PLAN

Per ACT No. 354 (2024 Regular Session):
The coroner shall implement, fulfill, and comply with all obligations, duties, and requirements imposed upon him by R.S. 40:1216.1 and by the regional sexual assault response plan approved for the coroner's health service district pursuant thereto, which ***the coroner shall annually sign to indicate his approval*** pursuant to R.S.40:1216.1(E)(4)

Orleans Parish Coroner

Dr. Dwight McKenna	Signed by: Dr. Dwight McKenna 5F032DC58DC54B6...	3/6/2025
Print Name	Signature	Date

Jefferson Parish Coroner

Dr. Gerry Cvitanovich	Signed by: Dr. Gerry Cvitanovich 188FA959C3884C5...	2/25/2025
Print Name	Signature	Date

St. Bernard Parish Coroner

Dr. Gregory Fernandez	Signed by: Dr. Gregory Fernandez F3FFD9F418A7483...	2/24/2025
Print Name	Signature	Date

Plaquemines Parish Coroner

Dr. Neil Wolfson	Signed by: Dr. Mil Wolfson DDEB4C3C7BF243E...	3/13/2025
Print Name	Signature	Date

APPENDIX H: UPDATES TO REGION 1 2024 SAR PLAN

The 2025 Region 1 Regional SAR Plan includes specific updates/changes made to sections of the 2024 Region 1 SAR Plan, and they are outlined in the chart below.

- Throughout entire plan, "victim" was changed to "survivor" and ACT No. 229 was changed to R.S. 40:1216.1 or deleted, depending on the applicable sections.
- Updates in column 2 below corresponds to the page numbers in the 2024 SAR plan.

Statutory Mandates	Updates
a) Provide an inventory of all available resources and existing infrastructure in the region and clearly outline how the resources and infrastructure will be incorporated in the most effective manner. **(Pages 4-6)**	***Changed the following:*** • "victim" changed to "survivor" • updated names of key responders
b) Clearly outline the entity responsible for the purchase of sexual assault collection kits and the standards and procedures for the storage of the kits prior to use in a forensic medical examination. **(Page 18)**	***Changed the following:*** • In #1, "Contents of the Sexual Assault (SA) Collection Kits" : Used the language in R.S. 40:1216.1
c) Clearly outline the standards and procedures for a survivor to receive a forensic medical examination, as defined in R.S. 15:622, to ensure access to such an examination in every parish. The plan shall designate a hospital or healthcare provider to be the lead entity for sexual assault examinations for adult survivors and a hospital or healthcare provider to be the lead entity for sexual assault examinations for pediatric survivors. The plan shall also include specific details directing first responders in the transport of survivors of a sexually-oriented crime, the appropriate party to perform the forensic medical examination, and any required training for a person performing a forensic medical examination. **(Pages 7-16)**	***Changed the following:*** • Outlined designated lead entities for adult and pediatric FMEs • Included language from ACT No 669
d) Clearly outline the standards and procedures for the handling and payment of medical	***Changed the following:***

bills related to the forensic medical examination to clarify and ensure that those standards and procedures are in compliance with this Section and any other applicable section of law. **(Page 21)**	• Added language from ACT No 669
e) Clearly outline the standards and procedures for the transfer of sexual assault collection kits for both reported and unreported crimes to an appropriate criminal justice agency or the local law enforcement agency having jurisdiction in the parish in which the crime was committed, if known, or if unknown, to an appropriate criminal justice agency or the local law enforcement agency having jurisdiction in the parish in which the hospital or healthcare provider is located. The plan shall include a maximum time period for the transfer to occur not to exceed seven days after the criminal justice agency or local law enforcement agency receives a request for the transfer from the hospital or healthcare provider. **(Pages 18-20)**	***Changed the following:*** • Added language from ACT No 669 in reference to the 72 hour timeframe law enforcement has to take possession of kit and retrieval of sexual assault collection kits

OTHER UPDATES TO THE PLAN:

- Plan was reformatted to align with all other regional SAR plans.
- Added Appendix B: FME Training Guidance for Designated Health Providers
- Added Appendix C: LDH Pamphlet "Survivor's Guide"
- Added Appendix D: Planning Meeting Notice and List of Invitees
- Added Appendix E: Planning Meeting List of Attendees
- Added Appendix F: Region 1 Coroners' Signature of Approval of Region 1 SAR Plan
- Added Appendix H: Updates to SAR Plan