

Region 6

2026 Regional Sexual Assault Response Plan

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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. *In Office of Public Health (OPH) Region 6, the Christus-St. Frances Cabrini Hospital Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program officially serves as the OPH Region 6's regional sexual assault response team.* In addition, currently their SANE Coordinator thru the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE) will continue to collect regional FME data from the designated facilities in Region 6 for policy development, process improvement, training, etc. However, the emergency room physicians/designated providers will continue to perform the adult FMEs in all designated facilities when the SANE Program Team is unavailable to perform the FMEs.

In October 2025, input was solicited from the OPH Region VI coroners, and from other regional SAR partners in the October 7, 2025 meeting, regarding any updates and/or changes needed for the 2025 SAR Plan. SEE APPENDIX 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 for a list of the individuals and organizations in attendance at the meeting.

The following 2026 OPH Region 6 Sexual Assault Response Plan includes the consensus recommended updates/changes 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, 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 plan 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

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 for coroners signatures

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.

OPH Region 6 Sexual Assault Response Plan

The *2026 OPH Region 6 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 Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Rapides, Vernon, and Winn 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 6 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 6 *Sexual Assault Response Team* consists of key responders who will ensure that survivors have access to medical, law enforcement, advocacy, and prosecutorial services.

- **8 Coroners**

Name	Jurisdiction
Dr. James Bordelon	Avoyelles Parish
Raymond Rouse	Catahoula Parish
Pamela Poole	Concordia Parish
Dan Fletcher	Grant Parish
Kathy D. Thompson	LaSalle Parish
Dr. Jonathan Hunter	Rapides Parish
Dr. Shawn Granger	Vernon Parish
Dr. James Lee	Winn Parish

- **7 District Attorneys**

Name	District	Parishes
Honorable Phillip Terrell	9 th	Rapides
Honorable Terry Lambright	30 th	Vernon
Honorable Charles A. Riddle, III	12 th	Avoyelles
Honorable Bradley R. Burget	7 th	Catahoula, Concordia
Honorable J. Reed Walters	28 th	LaSalle
Honorable James P. Lemoine	35 th	Grant
Honorable R. Chris Nevills	8 th	Winn

- **6 Emergency Medical Services**

Organizations	Parishes
Acadian Ambulance Service	Grant, Avoyelles, Vernon, and Concordia
Acadian	Grant
Advanced EMS	Winn
LaSalle and Hardtner EMS	LaSalle
MedExpress	Vernon
Metro Rural EMS	Concordia
North East Ambulance	Catahoula, some of Concordia
Pafford EMS	Rapides

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

Designated Region 6 Hospitals/ERs	Location	Parish
Byrd Regional Hospital (1 SANE Nurse)	Leesville, LA	Vernon
Rapides Regional Medical Center	Alexandria, LA	Rapides
CHRISTUS-St. Frances Cabrini Hospital (2 SANE Nurses)	Alexandria, LA	Rapides
Alexandria Emergency Hospital	Alexandria, LA	Rapides
Avoyelles Hospital	Marksville, LA	Avoyelles

Bunkie General Hospital	Bunkie, LA	Avoyelles
Hardtner Medical Center	Olla, LA	LaSalle
LaSalle General Hospital	Jena, LA	LaSalle
Trinity Medical Center	Ferriday, LA	Concordia
Winn Parish Medical Center	Winnfield, LA	Winn
VA Medical Center at Alexandria	Pineville, LA	Rapides
Baynes Jones Army Hospital (Fort Polk) (3 SANE Nurses)	Leesville, LA	Vernon

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

1 Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis Centers (SACs) and 1 Child Advocacy Centers (CACs)

Name	Region 6 Location	Service Area
Children’s Advocacy Network	Alexandria, LA	Regional-318-445-5678; 24 hr. Answering service
United Way of Central Louisiana, Family Resource Center	Alexandria, LA	Regional
Family Justice Center	Alexandria, LA	Regional
Faith House	Lafayette, LA	Regional 888-411-1333
LaFASA	Baton Rouge, LA	Hotline Number 888-995-7273 Text Line 225-351-7233
STAR	Alexandria, LA	Rapides, Avoyelles, Grant, and Vernon. Hotline 855-435-STAR (7827)

- **2 Crime Labs: Shreveport Crime Lab and Baton Rouge Crime Lab**

- **Law Enforcement**

- **Louisiana State University at Alexandria Police (Alexandria, LA)-Chief Donald Collins**
- **Louisiana College Campus Police (Pineville, LA)**
- **8 Parish Sheriffs**
- **Louisiana State Police (For kits)-Bridget Depew**

Name	Parishes Covered
Sheriff David Dauzat	Avoyelles
Sheriff Toney Edwards	Catahoula
Sheriff David Hedrick	Concordia
Sheriff Steven McCain	Grant
Sheriff Lane Windham	LaSalle
Sheriff Mark Wood	Rapides
Sheriff John S. “Sam” Craft	Vernon
Sheriff Josh McAllister	Winn

○ **Local Police Chiefs**

Name	Jurisdiction
Chief Chad Gremillion	City of Alexandria
Chief Frederick Washington	City of LeCompte
Chief Beth Westlake	City of Leesville
Chief Elster Smith	City of Marksville
Chief Roy Fore	City of Pineville
Johnny Ray Carpenter	City of Winnfield
Chief Cleophus "Drew" Graves	Fort Polk
Chief Marshall Deen	Town of Ball
Chief Julius Mays	Town of Bunkie
Chief Earnest Anderson	Town of Cottonport
Chief Derrick Freeman	Town of Ferriday
Chief Johnny Wade	Town of Glenmora
Chief Melissa Martelle	Town of Hornbeck
Chief Scott McLendon	Town of Jena
Chief MacArthur Tolliver	Town of Jonesville
Chief John Johnson	Town of Mansura
Chief Todd Scott	Town of New Llano
Chief Joey O Bier	Town of Olla
Chief Chris Paul	Town of Pollock
Chief Ted Turner	Town of Simmesport
Chief Floyd Peavy	Town of Urania
Chief Joey Merill	Town of Vidalia
Chief James Gonzales	Town of Woodworth
Chief Gerry Lummus	Village of Atlanta
Chief Jeremy Roberts	Village of Cheneyville
Chief Nathan Lacombe	Village of Creola
Chief Dan McClung	Village of Dry Prong
Chief Ananise Robinson	Village of Evergreen
Chief Jason Francis	Village of Forest Hill
Chief Victor Williams	Village of Georgetown
Chief Lyndell Atkins	Village of Harrisonburg
Chief Kenneth Smith	Village of Hessmer
Chief Clyde Baines	Village of Montgomery
Chief Nicholas Ducote	Village of Moreauville
Chief Henry St Romain	Village of Plaquemine
Chief Thomas Goad	Village of Ridgecrest
Chief Delbert Keel	Village of Rosepine
Chief Paul Jackson	Village of Sicily Island
Chief Ronnie Hagan	Village of Simpson
Chief Scott Cockerham	Village of Tullos

SEXUAL ASSAULT COLLECTION KITS

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

In OPH Region 6, 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 6, all emergency rooms (ERs) in the designated (Tier I) full service hospitals and the stand-alone ERs will be responsible for the purchase** of the SA collection kits **and** the storage of the kits prior to use.

****NOTE: SA collection kits are available from the LSP at no cost**

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 6.

1. DESIGNATED LEAD MEDICAL ENTITIES/FACILITIES AND PROVIDERS

In OPH Region 6, 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 6 Designated Lead Medical Facilities for Medical Screenings and FMEs:**
 - All emergency rooms (ERs) in the full service hospitals and the stand-alone ERs in Region 6 are designated lead medical facilities. (see chart below)

Designated Region 6 Hospitals/ERs	Location	Parish
CHRISTUS-St. Frances Cabrini Hospital	Alexandria, LA	Rapides
Rapides Regional Medical Center	Alexandria, LA	Rapides
Alexandria Emergency Hospital	Alexandria, LA	Rapides
Avoyelles Hospital	Marksville, LA	Avoyelles
Bunkie General Hospital	Bunkie, LA	Avoyelles
Hardtner Medical Center	Olla, LA	LaSalle
LaSalle General Hospital	Jena, LA	LaSalle
Trinity Medical Center	Ferriday, LA	Concordia
Winn Parish Medical Center	Winnfield, LA	Winn
VA Medical Center at Alexandria	Pineville, LA	Rapides
Baynes Jones Army Hospital (Fort Polk)	Leesville, LA	Vernon
Byrd Regional Hospital	Leesville, LA	Vernon

- **OPH Region 6 Designated Lead Healthcare Provider(s) for Medical Screenings:**
 - All ER physicians and healthcare provider(s) authorized to perform medical screenings who work in the Region 6 designated 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 6, 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 6 Designated Lead Medical Facilities for Pediatric Medical Screenings:**

- *All emergency rooms (ERs) in the full service hospitals and the stand-alone ERs in Region 6 are designated facilities for medical screenings. (See chart below)*

Designated Region 6 Hospitals/ERs	Location	Parish
Byrd Regional Hospital	Leesville, LA	Vernon
Rapides Regional Medical Center	Alexandria, LA	Rapides
CHRISTUS-St. Frances Cabrini Hospital	Alexandria, LA	Rapides
Alexandria Emergency Hospital	Alexandria, LA	Rapides
Avoyelles Hospital	Marksville, LA	Avoyelles
Bunkie General Hospital	Bunkie, LA	Avoyelles
Hardtner Medical Center	Olla, LA	LaSalle
LaSalle General Hospital	Jena, LA	LaSalle
Trinity Medical Center	Ferriday, LA	Concordia
Winn Parish Medical Center	Winnfield, LA	Winn
VA Medical Center at Alexandria	Pineville, LA	Rapides
Baynes Jones Army Hospital (Fort Polk)	Leesville, LA	Vernon

2. TRANSPORTATION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS

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

- **EMS First Responders (acute cases only): *Acute Means less than 120 hours from assault.***

- For Adults/Older Adolescents: **In OPH Region 6**, sexual assault survivors should be transported *to the nearest lead medical facility* 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 6**, all pediatric survivors of sexual assault should be transported by EMS *to the nearest lead medical facility* 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 should be transported by EMS **OR** with LE escort 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 lead 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 6**, if law enforcement must provide transportation of a medically stable SA survivor to or from a lead 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, 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 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 6, 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 6. 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 6, the survivor should not be left alone if possible.
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 6, all sexual assault advocates should be trained and should pass a background check through their respective agencies. SEE APPENDIX 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- and 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 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 adult 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 6**, the hospital or healthcare provider shall immediately notify the local law enforcement agency having jurisdiction in the parish in which the hospital or healthcare provider is located and shall coordinate the transfer of the evidence with the law enforcement agency in a manner designed to protect its evidentiary integrity.
- 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.

- 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 1 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.

& 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.
- 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.

- 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. CARD is included in the KITs from LSP for this purpose with the SAK (Sexual Assault Tracking Kit web address and instructions to access.)
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 6 has 1 accredited Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis Center and 1 Child Advocacy Center.

CHAIN OF CUSTODY OF EVIDENCE

➤ **Submission of Sexual Assault Collection Kits to Law Enforcement In OPH Region 6:**

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 6, the law enforcement agency shall *retrieve from the hospital or healthcare provider the evidence*, with coordination of the FME for timely collection 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.)
- If law enforcement is unable to pick up the evidence within the stated timeframe, then the healthcare provider who performed the FME must place the evidence in a locked storage area in the ER, preferably accessible to only the key holder. When law enforcement arrives, the healthcare provider with the key to the locked storage area should sign for and retrieve the evidence and personally hands it to law enforcement (ideally).
- 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 local law enforcement agency having jurisdiction in the parish in which the hospital or healthcare provider is located* (who will then be responsible

for maintaining/transferring the evidence to the local law enforcement agency having jurisdiction in the parish in which the crime occurred).

NOTE: City police respond within city limits and sheriffs respond in unincorporated areas.

DESIGNATED HOSPITALS/ERs
Byrd Regional Hospital
Rapides Regional Medical Center
CHRISTUS-St. Frances Cabrini Hospital
Alexandria Emergency Hospital
Avoyelles Hospital
Bunkie General Hospital
Hardtner Medical Center
LaSalle General Hospital
Trinity Medical Center
Winn Parish Medical Center
VA Medical Center at Alexandria
Baynes Jones Army Hospital (Fort Polk)

➤ **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.

MEDICAL BILLING & PAYMENT STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

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 Survivor 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 Survivors 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 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 that 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.

PARISH: AVOYELLES

Who purchases the kit (if not the hospital, please describe how/when kits are delivered)	ALL KITS ARE PROVIDED FREE BY THE LSP
Kit storage location (prior to FME)	Kits stored in the Emergency Department trauma room at Avoyelles Hospital, Bunkie General Hospital and at the SANE office at Christus-St. Frances Cabrini Hospital
Any additional information regarding sexual assault kits you wish to include	ALL KITS ARE PROVIDED FREE BY THE LSP
Who performs the FME: what is the procedure/protocol	SANE. Cabrini SANE trained nurses are Available 24/7/365 for cases Adult and Pediatrics.
What hospital/healthcare provider is the designated entity (may be divided)	Law enforcement contact Christus-St. Frances Cabrini per the designation of Dr. James Bordelon, Avoyelles Coroner.
If a survivor arrives at a non-designated facility, what is the protocol to transport	Patient will undergo a medical screening at any facility, but is then transported to Christus-St. Frances for the FME. Patient may self-transport or be taken by police or EMS.
Law enforcement contact (for when you have a child or someone reporting)	Either the City Police or the Sheriff, depending on the circumstances and location of the event, plus child protective services.
Time span and protocol for kit retrieval (not to exceed 7 days in the hospital)	Kits are given to the investigating law enforcement agency (either City or Sheriff) immediately. They are not stored at the hospitals after completions.
Other protocols regarding notification or kit retrieval that is not spelled out in statute	The Avoyelles Parish Coroner's Office will be notified no later than next day of examination.

PARISH: CATAHOULA (No hospitals in Catahoula Parish)

Who purchases the kit (if not the hospital, please describe how/when kits are delivered)	ALL KITS ARE PROVIDED FREE BY THE LSP
Kit storage location (prior to FME)	Catahoula Parish Sheriff's Investigative Office and Supervisor's Office REGION 3 LCLE Sane Coordinator (currently SANE Program Coordinator) at CABRINI Hospital will request and store all KITS per LSP
Any additional information regarding sexual assault kits you wish to include	None
Who performs the FME: what is the procedure/protocol	FME performed by the emergency room doctor (or SANE) of the destination hospital. There are NO hospitals in Catahoula Parish.
What hospital/healthcare provider is the designated entity (may be divided)	Not specified by the coroner. There are NO hospitals in Catahoula Parish.
If a survivor arrives at a non-designated facility, what is the protocol to transport	Catahoula Parish Sheriff's Office escorts the survivor to the nearest hospital
Law enforcement contact (for when you have a child or someone reporting)	Catahoula Parish Sheriff's Office: Catahoula Detective Amy Franklin
Time span and protocol for kit retrieval (not to exceed 7 days in the hospital)	Hospitals turn the kits into law enforcement as soon as they are completed. CPSO detective transports the kit after it is administered and sealed by the attending M.D. The Detective delivers the sealed kit to his CPSO supervisor.
Other protocols regarding notification or kit retrieval that is not spelled out in statute	The CPSO Supervisor delivers any kit to the CPSO Major over the CPSO Crime Lab who then stores the kit.

PARISH: CONCORDIA

Who purchases the kit (if not the hospital, please describe how/when kits are delivered)	ALL KITS ARE PROVIDED FREE BY THE LSP
Hospital	
Kit storage location (prior to FME)	Stored in various offices of the Concordia Parish Sheriff's Office, including the investigator's office, as well as offices of other supervising officers of the CPSO. Vidalia Police Department stores their own kits after SANE exam in evidence refrigerator in the investigation office.
Any additional information regarding sexual assault kits you wish to include	Vidalia Police Department stores its own kits with the investigator each having a kit available to them at all times.
Who performs the FME: what is the procedure/protocol	The attending emergency room doctor (or SANE) of Trinity Medical Center in Ferriday, LA Or Cabrini Hospital in Alexandria for back up if SANE not available at Trinity Medical Center.
What hospital/healthcare provider is the designated entity (may be divided)	Trinity Medical Center in Ferriday, LA
If a survivor arrives at a non-designated facility, what is the protocol to transport	Trinity Medical Center is the only hospital in Concordia Parish.
Law enforcement contact (for when you have a child or someone reporting)	Concordia Parish Sheriff's Office: Concordia Detective Phillip Weber, city police. Investigator Renda Singleton, Vidalia Police, Investigator, Miranda Clifton Vidalia Police
Time span and protocol for kit retrieval (not to exceed 7 days in the hospital)	The kits are given to the CPSO for immediate transport. The CPSO detective transports the sealed kit to the supervisor and the supervisor delivers the sealed kits (after it is returned from the SANE) to the CPSO Major, who delivers it to the CPSO crime lab where it is stored. Vidalia Police Department handles their own sealed kits and transports them to the crime lab.
Other protocols regarding notification or kit retrieval that is not spelled out in statute	City Police log into computer and transport to crime lab. Trinity Medical Center has 3- SANE trained Nurses in adult and adolescents. At Vidalia, the lead sexual assault investigator logs in the kit then transports sealed kits to the crime lab.

PARISH: GRANT (No hospitals in Grant Parish)

Who purchases the kit (if not the hospital, please describe how/when kits are delivered)	ALL KITS ARE PROVIDED FREE BY THE LSP
Kit storage location (prior to FME)	Shelf in the evidence processing room at the Sheriff's Criminal Investigations Division. 100 8 th Street, Colfax, LA. Kits are transported to the FME by the designated investigating detective or kits at CHRISTUS-St. Frances Cabrini are used. REGION 3 LCLE Sane Coordinator (currently SANE Program Coordinator) at CABRINI Hospital will request and store all KITS per LSP
Any additional information regarding sexual assault kits you wish to include	Kits are stocked by the Grant Parish Sheriff's Office and handled by investigators only unless special circumstances occur.
Who performs the FME: what is the procedure/protocol	SANE/SAFE trained nurses or in the event of their unavailability, a medical doctor. Location will depend on survivor location and which hospital is closer and is properly staffed. This includes hospital in Rapides, Winn or Natchitoches Parishes.
What hospital/healthcare provider is the designated entity (may be divided)	CHRISTUS-St. Francis Cabrini is designated by the Grant Parish Coroner in accordance with its designations by Dr. Hunter of Rapides Parish. .
If a survivor arrives at a non-designated facility, what is the protocol to transport	If the survivor reports to an NDF, the investigator will ascertain what the current hospital can provide. If there is a SANE/SAFE trained nurse or a medical doctor available, the procedure will occur there, else, the survivor will be advised to report to the nearest hospital where trained personnel are available. Investigators will provide transportation if need arises.
Law enforcement contact (for when you have a child or someone reporting)	Grant Parish Sheriff's Office, Chief Detective Brad Sudduth For municipalities, the initial report occurs with the GPSO. GPSO investigators will handle the recovery process and complete the investigations.
Time span and protocol for kit retrieval (not to exceed 7 days in the hospital)	Kit is sealed by recovering nurse and labeled with the patient's information. Evidence is released to the investigator with an evidence transfer form completed and placed into the case file. The kit is then transferred to the North Louisiana Crime Lab for forensic analysis.
Other protocols regarding notification or kit retrieval that is not spelled out in statute	Children's Advocacy Network is also notified if it is a child. FMEs are paid for "by the Grant Parish Police Jury."

PARISH: LASALLE

Who purchases the kit (if not the hospital, please describe how/when kits are delivered)	ALL KITS ARE PROVIDED FREE BY THE LSP
Kit storage location (prior to FME)	Two kits (unopened) are maintained at the Emergency Department at both LaSalle General and Hardtner Medical.
Any additional information regarding sexual assault kits you wish to include	REGION 3 LCLE Sane Coordinator (currently SANE Program Coordinator) at CABRINI Hospital will request and store all KITS per LSP
Who performs the FME: what is the procedure/protocol	CHRISTUS-St. Frances Cabrini is the designated hospital where SANE trained nurse (or Rapides Coroner) will perform the FME. The ER physician with nurse assistance if performed at LaSalle General or Hardtner Medical Center if a SANE trained nurse is not available at the designated
What hospital/healthcare provider is the designated entity (may be divided)	Cases may be referred (self-referred or brought) to either parish hospital depending on proximity (LaSalle General, Jena or Hardtner Medical, Olla). CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini is the coroner designated facility.
If a survivor arrives at a non-designated facility, what is the protocol to transport	Law enforcement is notified and the patient may be transported by police, sheriff or EMS to designated facility.
Law enforcement contact (for when you have a child or someone reporting)	LaSalle Parish Sheriff's Office and Child Protective Services (DCFS) if it is a child. Lacey Cockerham
Time span and protocol for kit retrieval (not to exceed 7 days in the hospital)	The kits are given immediately to law enforcement. There is no on-site hospital storage.
Other protocols regarding notification or kit retrieval that is not spelled out in statute	All protocols are through the LaSalle Parish Sheriff's Office, the City Police and Child Protective Services

PARISH: RAPIDES

Who purchases the kit (if not the hospital, please describe how/when kits are delivered)	ALL KITS ARE PROVIDED FREE BY THE LSP
Kit storage location (prior to FME)	Few kits in stock at Rapides Regional Medical Center. Primary Storage REGION3 LCLE Sane Coordinator (currently SANE Program Coordinator) at CABRINI Hospital will request and store all KITS per LSP request 7-2024
Any additional information regarding sexual assault kits you wish to include	Designated safe storage at either the police department or the SANE office. SANE nurses receive competency evaluation and training annually.
Who performs the FME: what is the procedure/protocol	SANE (or sometimes the Coroner).
What hospital/healthcare provider is the designated entity (may be divided)	CHRISTUS-St. Frances Cabrini per the designation of Dr. Hunter, Rapides Parish Coroner.
If a survivor arrives at a non-designated facility, what is the protocol to transport	Patient will undergo a medical screening at any facility but is transported to CHRISTUS-Cabrini for the FME. Patient may self-transport or be taken by police or EMS.
Law enforcement contact (for when you have a child or someone reporting)	City of Alexandria or Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office (or other law enforcement if relevant.) Child Protective Services (Department of Children and Family Services) if a minor.
Time span and protocol for kit retrieval (not to exceed 7 days in the hospital)	Kits are handed over to law enforcement upon completion of the FME. They are not stored at the hospital.
Other protocols regarding notification or kit retrieval that is not spelled out in statute	MOU with STAR- St Frances Cabrini Hospital

PARISH: VERNON

Who purchases the kit (if not the hospital, please describe how/when kits are delivered)	ALL KITS ARE PROVIDED FREE BY THE LSP
Kit storage location (prior to FME)	Vernon Parish Sheriff's Office and Leesville City Police, plus Byrd Regional Hospital and the Vernon Parish Coroner's Office
Any additional information regarding sexual assault kits you wish to include	Byrd Regional Hospital will maintain possession of two FME kits for non-reporters. Others will be held by law enforcement.
Who performs the FME: what is the procedure/protocol	SANE trained nurses at Byrd Regional Hospital. Survivors advocate is notified when needed for FME.
What hospital/healthcare provider is the designated entity (may be divided)	Dr. Granger has designated Byrd Regional Hospital as the designated facility.
If a survivor arrives at a non-designated facility, what is the protocol to transport	The Sexual Assault Hotline will be notified and the Survivor Advocate will meet with survivor to discuss options, regardless of where they present if available (the advocates are not located in the parish and come from elsewhere). Survivors should be transported to the designated facility.
Law enforcement contact (for when you have a child or someone reporting)	Vernon Parish Sheriff's Office or Leesville City Police. Vernon Parish Sheriff Detective Rhonda Jordan or Leesville City Police Deputy Chief Westlake. Child Protective Services.
Time span and protocol for kit retrieval (not to exceed 7 days in the hospital)	Kits will be transferred immediately to law enforcement after completion of the FME.
Other protocols regarding notification or kit retrieval that is not spelled out in statute	Christus St. Frances Cabrini Hospital will back up the SANEs in this area as needed.

PARISH: WINN

Who purchases the kit (if not the hospital, please describe how/when kits are delivered)?	ALL KITS ARE PROVIDED FREE BY THE LSP
Kit storage location (prior to FME)	Locked in a cabinet in the detective's office at Winn Parish Sheriff's Office REGION 3 LCLE Sane Coordinator (currently SANE Program Coordinator) at CABRINI Hospital will request and store all KITS per LSP
Any additional information regarding sexual assault kits you wish to include	Kits are transported by the deputy working the incident or the assigned detective (Sheriff's Office or City Police Department, depending on the jurisdiction)
Who performs the FME: what is the procedure/protocol	Emergency Room doctor at the Winn Parish Medical Center or by SANE trained nurses "elsewhere," which includes St Frances Cabrini Hospital or Natchitoches Regional Medical Center. It depends on the availability of the SANE at Winn Parish.
What hospital/healthcare provider is the designated entity (may be divided)	Winn Parish Medical Center does not have a SANE trained nurse at this time. Winn Parish Medical Center does not do Pediatric FME's. St Frances Cabrini Hospital and/or Natchitoches Regional Medical Center are set as designated facility.
If a survivor arrives at a non-designated facility, what is the protocol to transport	Transport to Winn Parish Medical Center by self, EMS or law enforcement, depending on the circumstances, with subsequent transport to St Frances Cabrini Hospital or Natchitoches Regional Medical Center
Law enforcement contact (for when you have a child or someone reporting)	Winn Parish Sheriff's Office or Winnfield Police Department. Investigator Rick Tucker. Child Protective Services.
Time span and protocol for kit retrieval (not to exceed 7 days in the hospital)	Kit is sealed by the nurse and labeled with the patient's name, date, and time of exam, examiner's name. Evidence is released immediately to responding law enforcement officer with completion of a Release of Evidence Form, which goes in the patient's record.

APPENDIX A: FME TRAINING GUIDANCE FOR DESIGNATED HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

Trainings should include, but is not limited to, all sections of the annual OPH Region 6 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 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 trained 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 SANE trained, 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*. Also,

at least 12 contact hours of relevant continuing education must be obtained annually.

- 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. Also, at least 12 contact hours of relevant continuing education must be obtained annually.
- **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. ADAPT is currently providing national certification for sexual assault advocates through the National Advocate Credentialing Program. The NACP pre-approved training list can be found at <https://www.thenacp.org>.

APPENDIX B: LDH PAMPHLET/ “SURVIVOR’S GUIDE”

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

SURVIVOR'S GUIDE:

What to know after rape or sexual assault



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



APPENDIX C: PLANNING MEETING NOTICES & LIST OF INVITEES

INVITEES:

CORONERS

Avoyelles Parish	Dr. James Bordelon, Rosetta Mayeux
Catahoula Parish	Jackie Rouse, Raymond Rouse
Concordia Parish	Pamela Poole, R.N.
Grant Parish	Dan Fletcher, R.N.
LaSalle Parish	Dr. Matthew Erickson
Rapides Parish	Dr. Johnathan Hunter
Vernon Parish	Dr. Shawn Granger, Whitney Laurent
Winn Parish	Dr. James Lee

DISTRICT ATTORNEY OFFICE

Avoyelles Parish	Charles Riddle, S. Handie
Catahoula & Concordia Parish	Brad Burget
Grant Parish	Jay Lemoine
LaSalle Parish	J. Reed Wallers
Rapides Parish	Monica Doss, Phillip Terrel
Vernon Parish	Terry Lambright
Winn Parish	Chris Nevils

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Med Express	J. McGrew
Acadian Ambulance	Jeff Pogue
LERN Commission	Deborah Spann

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM SERVICES

Bunkie General Hospital	J. Adel, Crystal Carriere, Linda Deville, B. Taylor
Rapides Regional Medical Center	Brittany Parker, Edward Townsend, Cecil Fairchild, T. Alletag, Kellie Lewis, Tina Dauzat, Shawn Moreau
Trinity Medical Center	W. Durham
LaSalle General Hospital	C.Francis, G. Nichols
VA Medical Center	Cather Hansen
Christus St Frances Cabrini Hospital	Heather Lee, C. Nichols, Kimberly Thomas, Jenny Andurs
Tulane Medical Clinic	Norma Porter
Hardtner Medical	Samantha Schmitt, C. Saller
Avoyelles Hospital	Teresa White

ADVOCACY CENTERS

STAR- Rapides	Ashley Day, Chelsea Faw, Morgan Lamandre, Ashley Seaversen
Cenla Children's Advocacy Center	Jeremiah Honea
Rapides Foundation	Ashley Stewart

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- STATE POLICE**

Louisiana State Police	Scott Moreau
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- SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT**

Avoyelles Parish	Kenneth Bordelon, David Dauzat
Catahoula Parish	Toney Edwards
Concordia Parish	David Hedrick, K. Hedrick, P. Scott
Grant Parish	Jody Bullock, Steven McCain, James Watkins
LaSalle Parish	L. Terrel, Lane Windham
Rapides Parish	Curtis Gunter, J. Owens, S. Phillips, G. Rivet, Mark Wood
Vernon Parish	R. Cod, John S. "Sam" Craft
Winn Parish	Josh McAllister

- CITY POLICE**

Alexandria City Police	William Bates. Robert Distenfino
Pineville City Police	S. Farace, Kim Mixon

HIGHER EDUCATION

LSUA	Chief Donald Collins, Lisa Hickman, D. Smith
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SCHOOL BOARDS

Grant Public School Board	C.Horne
Rapides Parish School Board	Stephanie Barton, Shelly Close
Vernon Parish School Board	A.Degray
Winn Parish School Board	T. Thornton

OPH STAFF

Susan Babineaux
Rebecca Beaman
Julie Beene-Police
Yolanda Crawford
Michael Vu
Patricia White
Dr. Christina Lord
Kayla Livingston
Karen Webb

TRIBAL ASSOCIATIONS

Tunica-Biloxi	E. Cass, C. Chapman, Allison Johnson, R. Logan
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U.S. ARMY

Fort Polk	April Draper-Davis
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OTHER AFFILIATES

Medical	Dr. David Holcombe, Pat Lewis, V. Miles, S. Mansoor
Eckerd Connect	J. Roberts
VOA Alexandria	Tammy White
Grant Parish	Suzanne Alford
City of Alexandria	Tom Force, Cedric Green

APPENDIX D: LIST OF ATTENDEES AT THE PLANNING MEETING

Alford, Suzanne	Grant Parish
Amphion, Charlotte	Office of Public Health
Beaman, Rebecca	Office of Public Health
Beene-Police, Julie	Office of Public Health
Collins, Donald	LSUA
Crawford, Yolanda	Office of Public Health
Carriere, Crystal	Bunkie General Hospital
Constantino, Catherine	Office of Public Health
Dauzat, Tina	Rapides Regional Medical Center
Day, Ashley	STAR- Rapides
Draper-Davis, April	Fort Polk
Dubois, Donna	Office of Public Health
Faw, Chelsea	STAR- Rapides
Gregg, Christine	Bunkie General Hospital
Honea, Jeremiah	Children’s Advocacy Network
Lamandre, Morgan	STAR
Laurent, Whitney	Vernon Parish Coroner’s Office
Livingston, Kayla	Office of Public Health
Lord, Dr. Christina	Office of Public Health
Parker, Brittani	Rapides Regional Medical Center
Schmitt, Samantha	Hardtner Medical Center
Seaverson, Ashley	STAR- Rapides
Thomas, Kimberly	Christus St Frances Cabrini Hospital
White, Patricia	Office of Public Health

Subject: FW: Central LA Annual Sexual Assault Plan Review
Start: Tuesday October 7, 2025 10:00:00 AM
End: Tuesday October 7, 2025 11:00:00 AM **Location:**
<https://ldhophbrcoregion6.zoom.us/j/91793037465>
Attachments: [2024 OPH Region 6 SAR Plan Final.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

Good afternoon-

Please join us tomorrow for Central Louisiana's annual sexual assault response plan review via zoom at 10am.

The sexual assault response plan serves as a reference and catalog of the publically available protocols and resources regarding sexual assault response in the Central LA region that include: Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Rapides, Vernon and Winn parishes. Regional subject matter experts, such as yourselves, have carefully created and refined the SARP since 2015.

Thank you and as always we appreciate your input!

Region 6 Office of Public Health

Central LA (Region 6) Office of Public Health is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Please see attached for last year final plan. You may submit revisions to me via email before the meeting if you should want to do so.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ldhophbrcoregion6.zoom.us/j/91793037465>

Meeting ID: 917 9303 7465

One tap mobile

+12122258997,,91793037465# US

+16462551997,,91793037465# US

Join instructions

https://ldhophbrcoregion6.zoom.us/meetings/91793037465/invitations?signature=Hu7H-kMg8gavt0Di39nIRyIroy0DG-b86U_HWY-q6yA

Thanks

Record of Distribution

This plan has been provided to and reviewed by the following Region 6 Coroners

Parish	Corner Name	Coroner Signature	Date
Avoyelles	Dr. James Bordelon	Signed by: <i>Dr. James Bordelon</i> 70C9B963BA6C451... 925DC6168919DC734F69	10/15/2025
Catahoula	Raymond Rouse	<i>Jackie C Rouse</i> DocuSigned by: DocuSigned by: Jackie C Rouse	10/29/2025
Concordia	Pamela Poole, R.N.	Signed by: <i>Pamela Poole</i> 4C95C78F8E2F470...	10/15/2025
Grant	Dan Fletcher, R.N.	Signed by: <i>Dan Fletcher</i> 0C06C58A6AD44C2...	10/15/2025
LaSalle	Kathy Thompspon, NP	Signed by: <i>Kathy Thompspon</i> 8BF11E96EBF1493... Signed by:	11/5/2025
Rapides	Dr. Johnathan Hunter	<i>Dr. Jonathan Hunter</i> DA6AE2990DBD4E9... Signed by:	10/14/2025
Vernon	Dr. Shawn Granger	<i>Dr. Shawn Granger</i> C961EF873DCA42B... Signed by:	10/15/2025
Winn	Dr. James Lee	<i>James S. Lee, MD</i> D7CF69182ECB4F2...	10/27/2025