

Patient's Informed Consent - Sexual Assault Forensic Medical Examination

Explanation of Anonymous Reporting:

Anonymous Reporting ensures that patients of sexual assault are provided forensic examinations without requiring cooperation with law enforcement and/or participation in the criminal justice system. Additionally, North Carolina ensures that patients will not incur any out of pocket expenses associated with the provision of the sexual assault forensic examination.

Explanation of consent:

I _____ am requesting Sexual Assault Evidence Collection and I *do not* want to be interviewed at this time by law enforcement.

I have read and understand the following:

- A. I will not be billed for the forensic examination.
- B. The benefits of cooperating with law enforcement include:
 1. Law enforcement will have an opportunity to collect evidence from me, from the suspect, and from other possible crime scenes.
 2. I may be eligible for help from the North Carolina Crime Victim Compensation Program which helps victims of violent crimes meet their financial obligations.
- C. By delaying an interview with law enforcement I understand the following may occur:
 1. Evidence that would normally be collected by law enforcement may be permanently lost.
 2. Timely cooperation and pertinent information may be jeopardized due to a delayed interview.
- D. By delaying an interview with law enforcement more challenges are present should charges and prosecution against the suspect be pursued by a prosecutor.
- E. In accordance with HIPPA, the hospital will retain the forensic exam information as part of the medical record and package the forensic evidence kit appropriately. No information identifying the victim will be displayed on this package. The kit will then be transported to Law Enforcement Support Services in Raleigh, North Carolina. Appropriate information will be entered into a database so that the kit may be retrieved at a later date. Kits will be held a minimum of 1 year. After 1 year there is no guarantee that the evidence collected in the exam can be kept unless reported to law enforcement.

If I decide I want to report to law enforcement I can contact my local law enforcement agency or call 911.

I understand that I may **not be notified when** the kit containing forensic medical **evidence is destroyed.**

Information on NC’s RVAP and CVP:

RVAP: The Rape Victims Assistance Program reimburses a North Carolina medical provider up to \$1,000 for gathering evidence for a forensic exam kit. Hospital staff will submit a forensic exam expense claim to the Rape Assistance Program to pay the hospital bill for the evidence collection. The Rape Victims Assistance Program will compensate victims for expenses not paid by a collateral source such as Medicaid, public or private insurance plans or other victim benefit sources.

CVCP: North Carolina’s Crime Victim Compensation Program reimburses citizens who suffer medical expenses and lost wages as a result of being an innocent victim of a crime committed in North Carolina. Victims of rape, assault, child sexual abuse, domestic violence, and drunk driving, as well as the families of homicide victims are eligible to apply for financial help. The Victim Compensation Program is available to victims for up to one year after the crime, but only if the victim cooperates with the law enforcement agency.

If you are interested in receiving help through your local advocacy program and/or have questions about them, please call or write the address and phone number listed below. Or, in the event you would like to pursue criminal charges, please contact your local law enforcement agency or dial 911.

North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Monika Johnson Hostler
Executive Director
NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault
183 Wind Chime Court, Ste 100
Raleigh, NC 27615
919-870-8881 (p)
919-870-8828 (f)
www.nccasa.org

**Rape Victim Assistance Program OR
N.C. Crime Victim Compensation**

Division of Victim Compensation Services
Department of Crime Control and Public Safety
4703 Mail Serv. Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4703
1-800-826-6200

English is my primary language ____

I am requesting translation ____

SIGNED

DATE