



# SUPPORT, AUTONOMY & CHOICE

UNDERSTANDING S.A.F.E EXAMS IN OREGON

Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force | [www.oregonsatf.org](http://www.oregonsatf.org)

## YOU ARE MORE THAN EVIDENCE.

EVERYONE SEEKING CARE AFTER AN ASSAULT DESERVES SUPPORT, AUTONOMY AND CHOICE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.

A medical-forensic exam, otherwise known in Oregon as a SAFE (Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence) Exam, is conducted by a trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner and medical providers at your local hospital. The primary focus for the medical provider is ensuring that you are safe, given necessary medical attention, and that your questions and concerns are heard and valued. If you want to have evidence collected, the medical provider will check in with you every step of the way to make sure that you want that evidence collected and are comfortable.

**You can stop the exam at any time and will be supported in your choice.**

## EXAMS ARE FREE

SAFE EXAMS IN OREGON ARE FREE AND INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Care and Support from trained, non-judgmental medical professionals
- All medical care related to the assault (including care for injuries, x-rays, labs, etc.) during the first visit
- Preventative medication for pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases and infections
- Access to an Advocate (trained professional that can walk you through your resources and options for when you leave the hospital)
- Control over whether or not you want to report to law enforcement.

## UNDER 18? 65+?

MEDICAL PROVIDERS MUST REPORT ABUSE OF MINORS & THOSE OVER THE AGE OF 65 TO LAW ENFORCEMENT. YOU CAN STILL RECEIVE ACCESS TO A PRIVATE EXAM, MEDICAL CARE & RESOURCES.

## AT-HOME KITS

KITS AVAILABLE FOR HOME EVIDENCE COLLECTION **ARE NOT ADVISED** FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

- At-home evidence collection kits do not provide survivors with access to medical attention or advocates, meaning you may not be connected to support or medical resources that you have the right to access after an assault.
- In Oregon, chain of custody (who handles the evidence and when) must be documented. Evidence that you collect at home may not be admissible (you may not be able to use it) in court. Medical staff involved in your SAFE exam at the hospital preserve the chain of evidence on your behalf.
- At-home kits cost survivors money, SAFE exams and related medical care are free.
- Survivors have access to anonymous reporting options during a SAFE exam. At-home kits require that you make a report to law enforcement.

## REPORTING IS YOUR CHOICE

THE RESULTS OF YOUR SAFE EXAM MAY BE SUBMITTED ANONYMOUSLY TO THE POLICE, INCLUDE YOUR NAME, OR NOT BE SUBMITTED AT ALL.

NEED HELP GETTING TO THE HOSPITAL? Your local community advocacy program may be able to help you with transportation. Please visit [www.oregonsatf.org/help-for-survivors/](http://www.oregonsatf.org/help-for-survivors/) OR [www.ocadsv.org/find-help](http://www.ocadsv.org/find-help) to get connected with advocates in your area that can help.

# UNDERSTANDING YOUR OPTIONS & RESOURCES



BELOW IS A GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING YOUR OPTIONS FOR EVIDENCE COLLECTION, MEDICAL CARE, AND ACCESS TO SUPPORT RESOURCES AFTER A SEXUAL ASSAULT IN OREGON.

	AT-HOME EVIDENCE COLLECTION KITS	SAFE EXAM (18-64 years)	SAFE EXAM (Under 18, 65+)
Evidence Collection	✓	✓	✓
Evidence Collected Admissible in Oregon Court	-	✓	✓
Ability to Report Evidence to Law Enforcement Anonymously	-	✓	<i>In Oregon, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners at the hospital must report to law enforcement when someone under 18 or 65 and older has experienced a sexual assault.</i>
Free STI Medications & Preventative Care	-	✓	✓
Free Medical Assessment by Trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner	-	✓	✓
Free Medical Care for any injury related to the assault (x-rays, etc.) During First Visit	-	✓	✓
Free, Automatic Access to Advocate (a professional trained in providing support to someone after an assault, that is able to discuss your options & resources available to you).	-	✓	✓
5 Free Counseling Visits with a Mental Health Professional of Your Choosing	-	✓	✓
Reassurance, Ability to Ask Questions & Compassionate Care from Trained Medical Providers	-	✓	✓
Possibility of Travel Assistance (may be Available via your Local Advocacy Agency, See Resource Info on First Page)	-	✓	✓