

We provide comprehensive compassionate care to victims of assault, abuse, and neglect. Forensic medical care includes gathering information and evidence, treatment of injuries and sexually transmitted infections, and providing emotional support and resources to help the healing process. Eligible victims can access forensic medical care 24/7 at any of our three emergency departments:

- Samaritan Hospital - Troy
- Samaritan Hospital - Albany Memorial Campus
- St. Peter's Hospital - Albany

Your Care Team

- Forensic Examiner: a registered nurse, physician assistant, nurse practitioner or physician with specialized training who can provide comprehensive medical assessment and evidence collection for crime victims.
- Victim Advocate: trained to provide emotional support and information about long-term support and resources available.

Main Office Location

Samaritan Hospital
2215 Burdett Avenue
Troy, NY 12180

Main Office Number

(518) 271-3445

24-Hour Crisis Hotline

(518) 271-3257



Scan this QR
code for more
information.

St. Peter's Crime Victim Services is funded by grants from:

New York State
Office of Victim Services
and the
New York State Division
of Criminal Justice Services



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WHAT TO EXPECT DURING A FORENSIC EXAM



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Taking Control

After meeting our care team, you can choose to receive a forensic exam. Each step of the process is your choice. You may stop, pause, or change your mind at any point during your care. You can also decide who is present with you.

At the Beginning

- You will be offered forensic medical care by a NYSAFE-certified forensic examiner. This can include **medical care, testing, treatments, evidence collection, and evidence release.**
- A victim advocate will offer their support, and is available to stay for some or all of the forensic exam if you choose.
- The forensic exam process will be explained, and you will be asked to sign detailed consent forms for each step of the exam.
- **In cases of sexual assault,** the NYS Sexual Assault Bill of Rights will be reviewed with you. You can opt into receiving a specialized forensic exam. The New York State Office of Victim Services can cover the cost of the exam for you.

When We Respond

Forensic examiners and advocates respond to the emergency department 24/7 for patients who have experienced:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| • Sexual assault | • Elder abuse |
| • Domestic violence | • Human trafficking |
| • Physical assault | • Workplace violence |
| • Child sexual abuse | • Caregiver abuse |

We serve patients of all ages, gender identities, socioeconomic backgrounds, and citizenship statuses.

During an Exam

- You will be asked general questions about your health, medical history and medications you may take.
- You will be asked to give a detailed account of the assault.
- Swabs, samples and specimens may be collected for medical and/or evidence purposes.
- Photos can be taken to support forensic documentation.
- **In cases of sexual assault,** a genital exam is offered to check for injury and collect possible evidence.
- STI testing and medications are offered to survivors when medically indicated.
- **If you experienced head or neck injuries** (including obstructed breathing), imaging of your head and neck may be recommended. Symptoms may not be obvious at first, so early imaging can help detect injury.

After an Exam

- All patients are offered a follow-up phone call by a member of our forensic examiner team. Test results are available via an online portal.
- You will be encouraged to follow up with a primary care provider for additional medical support.
- You will be offered contact information for other support services in the community.
- If you have expenses resulting from a crime, you may apply for financial compensation. An advocate can assist you through the process.
- At St. Peter's Health Partners, forensic records are held securely outside the general medical record for safety.

Reporting Options

You are not required to report to law enforcement for forensic examination or other agency services.

If you would like to make a police report while at the hospital, the advocate can request an officer come to the emergency department to take your report.

If you would like to police report after your hospital visit, you can have evidence released at any point after collection. An advocate can accompany you to the police station while you give your statement.

If you choose not to report to law enforcement, you can still have a forensic exam. If evidence is collected, it will be safely stored. This allows you time to make an informed decision.