



# St. Peter's Hospital College of Nursing

ST PETER'S HEALTH PARTNERS

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE THE VICTIM OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

If you believe you are the victim of a Sexual Offense, you should follow the following procedures:

- A. **Get yourself to a safe place.** St. Peter's Hospital Security, Maria College Campus Security, the Albany Police Department, and/or the New York State Police can help you do this. Officers of those agencies are trained to respond to the needs of a victim of a Sexual Offense. They can also make you aware of support and advocacy services and advise you about reporting procedures and requirements.
- B. **Obtain medical attention.** For your safety and well-being, immediate medical attention is encouraged. Further, being examined as soon as possible is important in the case of sexual assault. Within 96 hours of an assault, you can get a Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (or "SAFE," commonly referred to as a rape kit) at a hospital. We encourage you to receive immediate medical attention at a facility that uses SAFE, or Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners. Completing a SAFE will not require you to file a police report, but it will help to preserve evidence in case you decide at a later date to file a police report. Local hospitals, with and without SAFE, include the following:

Program/ Entity	SAFE Facility?	Location	Contact Information
Samaritan Hospital	Yes	2215 Burdett Ave. Troy, NY 12180	P: 518-271-3300
Albany Medical Center	Yes	43 New Scotland Ave. Albany, NY 12208	P: 518-262-3125
St. Peter's Hospital	No	315 S. Manning Blvd. Albany, NY 12208	P: 518-525-1550
Albany Memorial Hospital	Yes	600 Northern Blvd. Albany, NY 12204	P: 518-471-3221

While there should be no charge from these hospitals for a rape kit, there may be charges for medical or counseling services off campus and, in some cases your insurance may be billed for services. You are encouraged to let hospital personnel know if you do not want your insurance policyholder to be notified about your access to these services.

**Sexual contact can transmit Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and may result in pregnancy. Testing for STIs and emergency contraception is available at:**

<b>Program/Address</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Albany County Health Department STD Clinic 175 Green St Albany, NY 12202	518-447-4589	Tue-Thu 8:30-10:00 AM (check-in)	For a fee. Students must be Albany county residents or full-time students living in campus housing.	Patients are seen on a first come-first serve basis.  Clinic hours listed are for check-in. Clinic remains open until all patients are seen.
Rensselaer County Health Department 1600 7 <sup>th</sup> Ave Second Floor Troy, NY 12180	518-270-2655	Wed 2:00-4:30 PM	Free	Walk-in clinic

Remember that this medical treatment may also provide the opportunity for the collection and documentation of evidence, should you decide to pursue the incident and offender through the legal system. The Albany Police Department, the Troy Police Department, and/or the New York State Police may assist you in this effort as well.

The New York State Office of Victim Services may also be able to assist in compensating you as a victim/survivor for health care and counseling services, including emergency funds. More Information may be found here:

[http://www.ovs.ny.gov/files/ovs\\_rights\\_of\\_cv\\_booklet.pdf](http://www.ovs.ny.gov/files/ovs_rights_of_cv_booklet.pdf),

or by calling 1-800-247-8035.

Options are explained here: <http://www.ovs.ny.gov/helpforcrimevictims.html>.

- C. **Preserve Evidence.** We encourage you to take steps to preserve any and all evidence when a Sexual Offense occurs, as this evidence may be necessary to prove that the offense took place and/or to obtain a protective order. Be aware that the location of the offense, your clothing, and your person may be considered a “crime scene,” and as such, a source of evidence. The location of the incident should be safe guarded and you should avoid washing, douching, using the toilet or changing clothes prior to a medical/legal exam. To best preserve evidence, you should avoid showering, washing, changing your clothes, combing your hair, drinking, eating, or doing anything to alter your physical appearance until after a physical exam has been completed.