



## **2024 Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners Report**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In early 2018, NCEDSV undertook a survey project to examine the sexual assault response in Nevada. This included the availability of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs), forensic exams and non-forensic medical care for victim-survivors of sexual assault. The report concluded that the response and assistance a victim-survivor of sexual assault received varied greatly by the county where they initially presented for medical treatment and sexual assault assistance.

To examine this further, NCEDSV completed a follow-up project creating a county-by-county breakdown of the sexual assault responses of SANEs, forensic exams, and non-forensic medical care. The primary goal of the project was to create a comprehensive understanding of available sexual assault services for victim-survivors in Nevada. The secondary goal was to assess how each county complied with the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) directing service provision for sexual assault victims.

The original report reviewed Nevada law in reference to rape kit analysis, victim-survivor care and payment for care. Additionally, the report included an overview of services by each county. This overview included if victim-survivors obtained medical treatment for injuries sustained, received prophylactics to address potential STI's (sexually transmitted infection) and if they were offered emergency contraception. Also included was whether or not a forensic exam was requested, how rape kit processing took place; how payment for rape kits was made; and the initial level of care available in each county. The report recommended that programs increase compliance with the law. It also suggested specific methods for Nevada medical facilities and advocacy programs to better serve victim-survivors of rape and sexual assault.

The original report concluded with an appendix containing descriptions of the sexual assault services provided by each county. Finally, for more in-depth information on services provided by each county, an appendix describing each county's sexual assault services were provided.

In 2024, this report is being updated to identify progress made on earlier recommendations and how counties are currently complying with NRS with regard to victim rights.

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## **NEVADA LAW**

Law enforcement officers and judicial system professionals are some of the primary responders to the justice needs of sexual assault victims. As such, their duties are driven by the laws which have been enacted to address sexual assault. The following NRS regulations were included in the original 2018 report.

### ***NRS 217.300 Payment of cost of initial medical care of victim; payment of costs incurred by hospital for forensic medical examination of victim.***

1. The county in whose jurisdiction a sexual assault is committed shall:
  - (a) Pay any costs incurred for medical care for any physical injuries resulting from the sexual assault which is provided to the victim not later than 72 hours after the victim first arrives for treatment.
  - (b) Pay any costs incurred by a hospital for the forensic medical examination of the victim.
2. Any costs incurred pursuant to subsection 1:
  - (a) Must not be charged directly to the victim of sexual assault.
  - (b) Must be charged to the county in whose jurisdiction the offense was committed.
3. The filing of a report with the appropriate law enforcement agency must not be a prerequisite to qualify for a forensic medical examination pursuant to this section.
4. The costs associated with a forensic medical examination must not be included in the costs for medical treatment pursuant to [NRS 217.310](#).
5. As used in this section, “forensic medical examination” means an examination by a health care provider to obtain evidence from a victim of sexual assault.

(Added to NRS by [1975, 1291](#); A [1977, 1633](#); [1985, 2105](#); [2013, 486](#))

### ***NRS 217.310 Application for medical and psychological treatment of victim and spouse; companionship during counseling; prerequisite to approval; certain costs of treatment for victim of sexual assault or other eligible person to be charged to county.***

1. If any victim of sexual assault requires medical treatment for physical injuries as a result of the sexual assault, in addition to any initial emergency medical care provided, or if any victim or spouse of such a victim suffers emotional trauma as a result of the sexual assault, the victim or spouse may, upon submitting an affidavit as required by subsection 2, apply to the board of county commissioners in the county where the sexual assault occurred for treatment at county expense.
2. The board shall approve an application for treatment upon receiving an affidavit from the applicant declaring that:
  - (a) The applicant is a victim of sexual assault or spouse of such a victim;

- (b) The sexual assault occurred in the county; and
  - (c) The victim requires medical treatment for physical injuries, or the victim or spouse has suffered emotional trauma, as a result of the sexual assault.
3. A victim who has suffered emotional trauma may select a relative or close friend to receive counseling with the victim if the counselor agrees that such companionship will be helpful to the victim. If the victim's application for treatment is approved, counseling for the relative or friend must also be approved.
  4. A victim must file a report with the appropriate law enforcement agency or submit to a forensic medical examination pursuant to [NRS 217.300](#) as a prerequisite for the victim or any other person eligible to qualify for treatment under the provisions of this section.
  5. Whenever costs are incurred by a hospital for treatment which has been approved by the board of county commissioners pursuant to this section for the victim of a sexual assault and any other person eligible for treatment, the costs of the treatment, not to exceed \$1,000, must be charged to the county which authorized the treatment. Any remainder must be handled the same as other hospital costs.

(Added to NRS by [1975, 1291](#); A [1977, 1633](#); [1979, 586](#); [1985, 2105](#); [2013, 486](#))

***NRS 200.3786 Sexual assault forensic evidence kits: Duties of medical provider, law enforcement agency and forensic laboratory.***

1. Within 72 hours after conducting a forensic medical examination, a medical provider shall notify the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the alleged sexual assault of the victim and the law enforcement agency shall take possession of the sexual assault forensic evidence kit.
2. If a law enforcement agency determines it does not have jurisdiction over an alleged sexual assault, the law enforcement agency shall notify the law enforcement agency having proper jurisdiction of such an assault within 5 days after taking possession of the sexual assault forensic evidence kit. After receiving such notice, the law enforcement agency with proper jurisdiction shall take possession of the sexual assault forensic evidence kit.
3. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a law enforcement agency shall, not later than 30 days after receiving notice pursuant to subsection 1 or 2 of a sexual assault forensic evidence kit, submit the sexual assault forensic evidence kit to the applicable forensic laboratory responsible for conducting a genetic marker analysis. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to any non-investigatory sexual assault forensic evidence kit associated with a victim who has chosen to remain anonymous.
4. A law enforcement agency shall, not later than 5 days after receiving notice of a sexual assault forensic evidence kit, assign a criminal complaint number to the evidence.
5. Any law enforcement agency that submits a sexual assault forensic evidence kit to a forensic laboratory shall, immediately following such a submission, notify the victim of the information contained in subsections 1, 2 and 3.
6. A forensic laboratory shall, not later than 120 days after receiving a sexual assault forensic evidence kit from a law enforcement agency, test the sexual assault forensic evidence kit, unless the victim requests, in writing, to defer the genetic marker analysis of the sexual assault forensic evidence kit pursuant to [NRS 178A.220](#).
7. Upon completion of a genetic marker analysis, the forensic laboratory shall include an eligible DNA profile obtained from the genetic marker analysis in the State DNA Database and CODIS.

8. As used in this section:
9. “CODIS” has the meaning ascribed to it in [NRS 176.09113](#).
10. “State DNA Database” has the meaning ascribed to it in [NRS 176.09119](#).
11. (Added to NRS by [2017, 2885](#); A [2019, 2848](#))

***NRS 178A.160 When rights attach; rights retained.***

1. The rights provided to a survivor pursuant to the Sexual Assault Survivors’ Bill of Rights attach whenever the survivor is subject to:
    - (a) A forensic medical examination; or
    - (b) An interview by a law enforcement official or prosecutor.
  2. A survivor retains the rights provided by the Sexual Assault Survivors’ Bill of Rights at all times, regardless of whether the survivor:
    - (a) Agrees to participate in the legal or criminal justice system;
    - (b) Agrees to speak to a law enforcement official or prosecutor; or
    - (c) Consents to a forensic medical examination.
- (Added to NRS by [2019, 2841](#))

***NRS 178A.170 Right to consult with sexual assault victims’ advocate; right to designate attendant to provide support; attendant may be excluded under certain circumstances.***

1. A survivor has the right to consult with a sexual assault victims’ advocate during:
    - (a) Any forensic medical examination; and
    - (b) Any interview by a law enforcement official or prosecutor.
  2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, a survivor has the right to designate an attendant to provide support during:
    - (a) Any forensic medical examination; and
    - (b) Any interview by a law enforcement official or prosecutor.
  3. If a law enforcement official or prosecutor conducts an interview of a survivor who is a minor, the law enforcement official or prosecutor may exclude the attendant from the interview if the law enforcement official or prosecutor:
    - (a) Has successfully completed specialized training in interviewing survivors who are minors that meets the standards of the National Children’s Alliance or its successor organization or another national organization that provides specialized training in interviewing survivors who are minors; and
    - (b) Determines, in his or her good faith, that the presence of the attendant would be detrimental to the purpose of the interview.
- (Added to NRS by [2019, 2841](#))

***NRS 178A.180 Survivor retains rights to consult with sexual assault victims’ advocate and to designate attendant even if such rights were previously waived; waiver of rights not admissible.***

1. A survivor retains the rights pursuant to [NRS 178A.170](#) even if the survivor has waived such rights during a previous examination or interview.
2. Except with the consent of the survivor, the fact that the survivor waived the right to consult with a sexual assault victims' advocate pursuant to [NRS 178A.170](#) is not admissible into evidence for any purpose.

(Added to NRS by [2019, 2842](#))

***NRS 178A.190 Exercise of rights relating to forensic medical examination; survivor not required to pay for forensic medical examination; right to use shower after forensic medical examination; prior notice of rights to be provided; acknowledgment.***

1. If a survivor requests a consultation with a sexual assault victims' advocate or an attendant to provide support to the survivor pursuant to NRS 178A.170, the medical provider shall summon the sexual assault victims' advocate or attendant before the commencement of the forensic medical examination.
2. If a sexual assault victims' advocate or an attendant to provide support to the survivor pursuant to NRS 178A.170 cannot be summoned in a timely manner, the medical provider shall inform the survivor of the ramifications of delaying the forensic medical examination.
3. A survivor must not be required to pay any expense related to a forensic medical examination pursuant to NRS 217.300.
4. After the forensic medical examination, the survivor has the right to use a shower apparatus at no cost, unless a facility which includes a shower apparatus is not available.
5. Before a medical provider commences a forensic medical examination, the medical provider shall inform the survivor of his or her rights pursuant to the Sexual Assault Survivors' Bill of Rights and other relevant law by presenting a document developed by the Office of the Attorney General pursuant to NRS 178A.270.
6. The person who presents to the survivor the document developed by the Office of the Attorney General pursuant to NRS 178A.270 shall sign a written acknowledgment indicating that the person presented the document to the survivor. The written acknowledgment must be retained in the case file of the survivor.

(Added to NRS by [2019, 2842](#))

***NRS 178A.290 Additional rights of survivor.***

1. In addition to any other right provided by law, a survivor has the right:
  - (a) In any civil or criminal case related to a sexual assault, to be reasonably protected from the defendant and persons acting on behalf of the defendant.

- (b) To be free from intimidation, harassment, and abuse.
- (c) To be treated with fairness and respect for his or her privacy and dignity.
- (d) To be heard through a victim impact statement at any proceeding involving any plea, sentencing, post-conviction decision, or any other proceeding where the rights of the survivor are at issue.
- 2. A survivor must not be required to submit to an examination by polygraph as a prerequisite to filing an accusatory pleading or participating in any part of the criminal justice system.
- 3. A court shall make reasonable efforts to provide the survivor and the family, friends and witnesses of the survivor with a secure waiting area or room that is separate from:
  - (a) The waiting area of the defendant and the family, friends, witnesses and attorneys of the defendant; and
  - (b) The office of the prosecutor, if applicable. (Added to NRS by [2019, 2845](#))

## DEFINITIONS

The International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) defines a SANE as a “registered nurse who [has] completed specialized education and clinical preparation in the medical forensic care of the patient who has experienced sexual assault or abuse<sup>1</sup>.” Forensic nurse responsibilities include “provide[ing] specialized care for patients who are experiencing acute and long-term health consequences associated with victimization or violence and/or have unmet evidentiary needs relative to having been victimized or accused of victimization...[and] consultation and testimony for civil and criminal proceedings relative to nursing practice, care given, and opinions regarding findings<sup>2</sup>.”

The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) defines a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) as “a community-based team that coordinates the response to victims of sexual assault...may be comprised of SANEs, hospital personnel, sexual assault victim advocates, law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and any other professionals with a specific interest in assisting victims of sexual assault<sup>3</sup>.”

Initial medical care for a victim-survivor of sexual assault may depend on whether or not they choose to report the assault to law enforcement. If the victim-survivor does choose to report, they will have a forensic exam to collect evidence. It is important to note that, in Nevada, a victim-survivor can undergo forensic evidence collection without reporting; if the victim-survivor thinks that they might want to report in the future, it is a good idea to have a forensic exam. Forensic evidence collection involves a head-to-toe examination in which samples of blood, urine and swabs of various areas of the body will be taken in order to collect evidence; this can also include, with the permission of the victim-survivor, collection of clothing that the victim-survivor was wearing during the assault<sup>4</sup>.

Regardless of whether a victim-survivor has a forensic exam or not, initial medical care should include immediate attention to any life- threatening injuries before any other type of care takes

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.forensicnurses.org/page/AboutSANE> accessed 4/16/24 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.forensicnurses.org/page/WhatisFN> accessed 4/16/24

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.rainn.org/articles/what-sanesar> accessed 4/16/24

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.rainn.org/articles/what-sanesar> accessed 4/16/24

place<sup>5</sup>. While Nevada law dictates that the cost of initial medical care is to be paid for by the county<sup>6</sup>, there is no definition under Nevada law as to what constitutes initial medical care. NCEDSV recommends that victim-survivors of rape or sexual assault be treated in the clinic setting for any physical injuries, be provided with prophylactics to prevent or treat STIs and be provided with emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy.

RAINN defines a Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) as an exam to collect DNA evidence for prosecution<sup>7</sup>. Essentially, a SAFE is a medical/forensic exam involving a physical exam, genital exam, and the use of swabs and samples collection of swabs and samples to preserve evidence of a sexual assault. Exams are conducted by SANEs or physicians while treating injuries and offering information about STIs and pregnancy.

Since forensic evidence collection may take hours to complete, it is crucial to address any serious or life-threatening injuries before evidence collection<sup>8</sup>. Medical treatment of a survivor should always take precedence to evidence collection. Acute or non-threatening injuries can wait until the completion of forensic evidence collection. Post-forensic treatment should include the administration of prophylactics to treat potential STI's and an emergency contraception pill to prevent pregnancy.

During the process of treatment and evidence collection, the victim-survivor should always be offered the support of a trained advocate<sup>9</sup>.

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) recommends that treatment and evidence collection be done by a trained professional, and that evidence should be collected as soon as possible and always within five days of the assault<sup>10</sup>. The exact evidence collected is dependent on the details of the assault. All evidence should only be collected with the express consent of the victim-survivor.

Choosing to undergo a forensic exam does not require victim-survivors to work with law enforcement. Forensic examinations are separate from reporting, and a victim-survivor may choose not to report, even if they have completed a rape kit.

## **ADVOCACY BEST PRACTICES**

The 2018 SANE Report highlighted best practice principles for advocates. The following trauma-informed survivor focused principles from 2018 continue to hold true today.

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid accessed 4/16/24

<sup>6</sup> Nev. Rev. Stat 217.300 4/16/2

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.nsvrc.org/sarts/toolkit/5-9> accessed 4/25/24

<sup>8</sup> Ibid accessed 4/25/24 Ibid accessed 4/25/24

<sup>9</sup> Ibid accessed 4/25/24

<sup>10</sup> Ibid accessed 4/25/24



- The primary goal of a sexual assault advocate is to ensure that a victim-survivor's rights are being respected, and that the victim-survivor is being heard<sup>11</sup>.
- Advocates should be trained to facilitate communication between the victim-survivor and the SANE, other medical personnel, law enforcement officers, judges, etc. so that the choices and well-being of the victim-survivor are the number one priority.
- Advocates have privilege, the right to protect confidential information from disclosure in legal proceedings<sup>12</sup>. Therefore, certain information about victim-survivors must remain confidential<sup>13</sup>.
- Advocates for victim-survivors of sexual assault should work from an empowerment philosophy; this means neither encouraging nor discouraging victim-survivors in their decision making process<sup>14</sup>.
- An advocate's job is to inform the victim-survivor of all options available to them, connect the victim-survivor with appropriate resources, and provide support. Advocates will always proceed based on the choices of the victim-survivor<sup>15</sup>.
- Sexual assault advocacy services should be available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year<sup>16</sup>.
- Advocates should be available via phone, hotline, text, or in person. Advocates meet with victim-survivors at hospitals, Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) or other medical facilities where SAFEs (Sexual Assault Forensic Exam) are performed.
- Hotline services should always have a live, trained advocate available to answer questions and offer referrals, information and support<sup>17</sup>.
- Active listening is a huge part of advocacy; therefore, advocates should be trained to listen to the needs of a victim-survivor before providing resources and referrals. An advocate's role is to lay out a victim-survivor's options. Advocates should never attempt to sway a victim-survivor in a particular direction.
- 24-hour hotline services should also include multi-lingual services based on the needs of the community, including services for people who are Deaf and hard-of-hearing.
- Advocates should be available and accessible to victim-survivors at every step of the process, including law enforcement interviews, forensic exams, medical treatment, prosecution meetings, etc., at the victim-survivor's request<sup>18</sup>.
- Advocates should be trained to provide services for cases in which the victim-survivor does wish to report and in cases where they do not wish to report.
- Agencies that offer sexual assault advocacy should have staff and volunteer advocates who represent the population in the community<sup>19</sup>.
- In addition to representation, all advocates should undergo cultural competency and responsiveness training to understand how discrimination and inequity can impact victim-survivors from marginalized communities.

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<sup>11</sup> <http://www.nccasa.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/ERS-Protocol-Toolkit.pdf> accessed 5/11/24

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.nnadv.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Confidentiality-Module-Slides.pdf> accessed 5/11/24

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.nccasa.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/ERS-Protocol-Toolkit.pdf> accessed 5/11/24

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/publications/2018->

<sup>15</sup> [Best%20Practices%20for%20Community%20Based%20Advocates.pdf](#) (

<sup>16</sup> Ibid accessed 5/31/24 bid accessed 5/31/24

<sup>17</sup> Ibid accessed 5/31/24

<sup>18</sup> Ibid accessed 5/31/24

<sup>19</sup> Ibid accessed 5/31/24



## LAW ENFORCEMENT BEST PRACTICES

The most important thing any law enforcement officer can do is believe a victim-survivor who comes forward about a rape or sexual assault. Victim-survivors are often reluctant to report due to the fear of not being believed. Victim-survivors who feel as though they are not being taken seriously are unlikely to disclose all relevant information about a case or report at all<sup>20</sup>. It is important that members of law enforcement establishing trust with victim-survivors by withholding judgement and never implying that the victim-survivor was at fault for the assault. Victim-survivors who feel they can trust law enforcement officers are more likely to report and/or share information that could be vital to their case.

Immediately after an assault is reported, law enforcement officers should collect a brief description of the assault to establish elements of the crime, identify and potentially locate any suspects and begin an investigation<sup>21</sup>. Law enforcement officers should not attempt to collect extensive evidence immediately following an assault as the impact of acute trauma can impair a victim-survivor's ability to recall events and communicate effectively<sup>22</sup>.

If a victim-survivor chooses to share on their own, it is important that law enforcement officers not stop them. Instead, they should actively listen to the victim-survivor's account, and document what they are saying<sup>23</sup>. It is important to acknowledge any impact of acute trauma, and not accuse victim-survivors of "changing their story" if they remember more details later on. Even if the initial collection of information is irrelevant to the case, listening in detail to what the victim-survivor says builds trust between victim-survivors and law enforcement.

Law enforcement officers should wait at least two full sleep cycles between when the incident took place and conducting an in-depth interview from the victim-survivor to allow for a more complete and accurate account of the incident<sup>24</sup>. Recent research confirms this suggestion.

When to Conduct an Exam or Interview: Why are We Prodding Victims to Keep Them Awake? (EVAWI updated August 2023) notes that emerging research documents that biological evidence lasts far longer than we ever imagined, so we are not losing as much as we thought with the delay. Moreover, health care providers can triage some evidence collection<sup>25</sup>.

Current research is also showing that a victim's memory of events is likely to improve after a day or two, with the benefit of sleep and support, rather than deteriorate as we have long believed. As a result, there are many situations where a health care provider will actually get better evidence – both from the patient's body as well as the medical history – by postponing the exam and allowing the victim to sleep and simply digest the fact that they've been the victim of a crime.

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<sup>20</sup> <http://www.nccasa.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/ERS-Protocol-Toolkit.pdf> accessed 6/7/24

<sup>21</sup> Ibid accessed 6/7/24

<sup>22</sup> Ibid accessed 6/7/24

<sup>23</sup> Ibid accessed 6/7/24

<sup>24</sup> 2013-06\_TB\_When\_to\_Interview\_the\_Victim1.pdf

<sup>25</sup> Ibid accessed 6/7/24

Officers should accommodate the preference of the victim-survivor as to where and when they would like to do the interview<sup>26</sup>. Advocates are allowed to be present during this time, if the victim-survivor wishes.

NRS 200.3786 states that law enforcement officers are responsible for collecting completed rape kits from exam sites, and transporting them to a testing facility within thirty days of completion.

When writing reports, it is important that law enforcement officers avoid language that implies consensual sex (i.e. “had sex,” “sexual intercourse,” “performed vaginal/anal/oral sex”); instead, trauma-informed practices recommend the use of language describing specific body parts and actions (i.e. “he penetrated her vagina with his penis”)<sup>27</sup>.

If a victim-survivor changes their mind about reporting at any time, they should not be pushed to do so. It is important that the victim-survivor feel empowered to make decisions for themselves during this process, and if for any reason they do not wish to report anymore, the decision should be respected.

## **EXAM OPTIONS**

Generally, there are four exam options for victim-survivors of sexual assault<sup>28</sup>. The first option is to have no exam at all. If a survivor chooses not to have a forensic exam, and chooses not to have any medical treatment, this is their decision to make, and it must be respected. Victim-survivors may choose this option because medical exams, such as pelvic exams can be invasive and reminiscent of their assault, which can trigger and further traumatize the victim-survivor.

The second exam option is a medical-only exam. Victim-survivors will be assessed for any physical injuries, have any injuries treated, and given prophylactics for any potential STI transmission and emergency contraception to reduce the risk of pregnancy.

The third option is a Jane Doe exam. A Jane Doe exam is a full forensic exam that is completed anonymously as a “Jane”, “John” or Doe. To move more toward using gender-neutral terminology the preference could be “Person” Doe. This option allows victim-survivors to complete a rape kit without immediately filing a report with law enforcement.

Nevada state law gives victim-survivors who choose an anonymous forensic exam 30 days to decide whether or not they would like to report. If they do not answer within 30 days, or decide not to report, the kit will be destroyed. In some counties, a Jane Doe exam includes medical treatment; for example, in Clark County, a Jane Doe exam at UMC includes treatment for injuries, prophylactics for potential STI’s, and emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy. At the Washoe County Child Advocacy Center, treatment accompanying a Jane Doe exam consists of only prophylactics and emergency contraception. It is important to note that consent for a “Doe” exam can be withdrawn at any time, and the victim-survivor has the right to decline any or all parts of the exam, even after they have agreed to it.

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<sup>26</sup> <http://www.nccasa.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/ERS-Protocol-Toolkit.pdf> accessed 6/7/24

<sup>27</sup> Signs of Hope Las Vegas Hospital Procedures accessed 6/7/24

The fourth option is a full forensic exam. In this option, a complete rape kit is collected, and the victim-survivor's name is attached to the kit. In some counties, a full forensic exam includes medical treatment; for example, in Clark County, a full forensic exam at UMC includes treatment for injuries, prophylactics for potential STI's and emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy. At the Washoe County Child Advocacy Center, treatment accompanying a full forensic exam consists of only prophylactics and emergency contraception. Again, consent for a full forensic can be withdrawn by the victim-survivor at any time, and the victim-survivor has the right to decline any or all parts of the exam, even after they have agreed to it.

## **OVERVIEW OF SERVICES BY COUNTY**

The 2018 report appendix included a chart which gave information regarding payment of forensic exams and medical care. The chart included whether rape kits were processed in 30 days and if funds for counseling was available to survivors. Since the time of the original report, all counties have come into compliance with these issues. Thus the original chart was eliminated.

So too has the availability of medical facilities changed since the original report. The following medical facilities collected forensic evidence in 2018: Advocates to End Domestic Violence SART Location (Carson City); the Child Advocacy Center SART location (Reno); Grover C. Dils Medical Center (Caliente); Northeastern Nevada Regional Hospital (Elko); University Medical Center (Las Vegas); and William B. Ririe Hospital (Ely).

In 2024, victim-survivors have additional locations from which to obtain an exam: Health Right has begun providing forensic evidence collection in Pahrump, Henderson and Las Vegas. The Nevada Institute of Forensic Nursing (NVIFN) Mobile SANE Unit now offers forensic evidence collection to some of the most at need victim-survivors in Nevada's frontier and rural counties.

The 2018 report concluded with the following recommendations:

- To establish a statewide Sexual Assault Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) to ensure uniform adherence to Nevada law regarding service provision for victims of sexual assault.
- To ensure advocates, inform victim-survivors of their rights under the law, as well as assist them through the process from medical facilities and law enforcement and with any financial gaps. Advocates in every county should be familiar with existing laws and stay current with any changes.
- Communities and service providers should support policies requiring that every Nevada hospital be capable of forensic evidence collection and to providing initial medical care and treatment of any victim-survivors of rape and sexual assault.
- Establish a telehealth or mobile SANE program in Nevada to address the requirement that victim-survivors travel long distances to access exams
- Train more SANEs in Nevada to ensure that there is at least one SANE-trained nurse in every major medical center in Nevada.

These recommendations have become part of the foundation for the sexual assault work currently being conducted by the NCEDSV. Collaborative partnerships are building a foundation for a coordinated statewide effort loosely based on past recommendations. This strategy is devoted to creating policy, enhancing program services, providing training, and finding accessible funding through a collective commitment to sexual assault survivors in Nevada.

These strategies will address existing challenges which resulted in the above recommendations.

## **APPENDIX A - CARSON CITY**

### **MEDICAL/ADVOCACY PROCEDURES**

Victim-survivors in Carson City are treated at the Advocates to End Domestic Violence (AEDV) SART location. Advocacy is available through the AEDV Sexual Assault Response Advocates (S.A.R.A). If the victim-survivor reports to a police station or hospital, an advocate will be contacted to transfer them to the SART specialty facility. Upon arrival, the victim-survivor will talk with an advocate, who will go over their options with them.

If the victim-survivor chooses to report immediately, an advocate will reach out to law enforcement so that a detective can order a forensic exam, file a police report, and connect the case number of the report to the rape kit. If a survivor wants a Jane Doe exam, the SART team will order the exam, since there is not yet a police report to connect it to.

Victim-survivors will receive either a full forensic or Jane Doe exam from one of four SART nurses. Forensic medical care includes prophylactics to prevent potential STI's and emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy. Only if a victim-survivor needs emergency medical care, will they be transferred to Carson-Tahoe Hospital.

For initial medical treatment, S.A.R.A. recommends that a victim-survivor go to their medical provider or OB-GYN for an exam. If a victim-survivor does not wish to go to their medical provider, S.A.R.A. can direct them to the Carson City Community Health Clinic. If a victim-survivor chooses to do this, they will be given a blue card by an advocate so that they do not have to explain that they are a survivor to get an exam. If a victim-survivor needs emergency medical care, they will be transferred to Carson-Tahoe Hospital.

Follow-up services for victim-survivors from Advocates to End Domestic Violence include court accompaniment, assistance with reimbursement for hospital and counseling costs, and assistance with protection orders.

This information was collected from Advocates to End Domestic Violence on October 4 and June 10, 2024.

### **RAPE KIT PROCESS**

Once the SANE collects evidence, the rape kit is collected by a detective assigned to the case. That detective has 30 days to submit the kit to the Washoe County Crime Lab for testing. Once the kit has been tested, it is returned to the Carson City Sheriff's Office and will be kept indefinitely, or until the District Attorney's office permits disposal.

This information was collected from the Carson City Sheriff's Office on June 7, 2024.

## **FINANCIAL PROCEDURE**

When a victim-survivor requests a forensic exam, both the forensic exam and initial medical care and treatment are paid for by the county. The medical provider should bill Carson City Health and Human services for reimbursement. There is an additional \$1,000 set aside for counseling.

When a victim-survivor does not request a forensic exam, the initial medical care and treatment are paid for by the county. The medical provider should bill Carson City Health and Human Services for reimbursement.

**This information was verified from the Carson City District Attorney's Office June 7, 2024.**

## **APPENDIX B - CHURCHILL COUNTY**

### **MEDICAL/ADVOCACY PROCEDURES**

Victim-survivors in Churchill County are treated at the Washoe Child Advocacy Center in Reno, Nevada. If the victim-survivor chooses to have a forensic exam, the SANE will get consent from the victim-survivor to collect evidence. The SANE will then interview the victim-survivor to gather information for a potential case and begin evidence collection. Victim-survivors are given prophylactics to treat potential STI's and emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy. For physical injuries, the victim-survivor is directed to their OB-GYN, medical provider, or community health center for treatment.

If a victim-survivor does not request a forensic exam, they are directed to an outside medical provider, such as their primary care physician, OB-GYN, or community health center for treatment.

Domestic Violence Intervention, the Churchill County program for victim-survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, are sporadically involved in the process for sexual assault survivors. Advocates from Domestic Violence Intervention may or may not be called out by the Fallon Police Department or Banner Churchill Community Hospital, depending on where the victim-survivor first arrives; however, currently, there is no county-wide protocol for advocate involvement.

This information was collected from the Washoe County SANE on June 7, 2024, and Domestic Violence Intervention on June 10, 2024.

## **RAPE KIT PROCESS**

If a case is taken by the Churchill Sheriff's Department, rape kits are processed through the Washoe County Crime Lab and then returned to the Churchill County Sheriff's Office. Kits are kept as evidence indefinitely.

This information was collected from the Churchill County Sheriff's Office on June 7, 2024.

If a case is taken by the Fallon Police Department, an officer will provide transport to the Child Advocacy Center for a SANE exam, if necessary. The kits will be collected and sent to the Washoe County Crime Lab by an officer immediately following completion; kits are not taken to the Fallon Police Department prior to testing. After kits are tested, they are returned to the Fallon Police Department and retained for investigation.

This information was collected from the Fallon Police Department on June 7, 2024.

## **FINANCIAL PROCEDURES**

When a victim-survivor requests a forensic exam, both the forensic exam and initial medical care and treatment are paid for by the county, up to \$1,000. The medical provider should bill Churchill County Social Services for reimbursement. There is an additional \$1,000 set aside for counseling.

When a victim-survivor does not request a forensic exam, the county pays for the initial medical care and treatment, up to \$1,000. Banner Churchill Community Hospital can treat any injuries, provide Plan B and STI treatment, if necessary. The medical provider should bill Churchill County Social Services for reimbursement.

**This information was collected from the Churchill County Sheriff's Office on June 7, 2024.**

## **APPENDIX C - CLARK COUNTY**

### **MEDICAL/ADVOCACY PROCEDURES**

Victim-survivors in Clark County are treated at the University Medical Center (UMC) in Las Vegas, Nevada. If a victim-survivor calls or reports to the Rape Crisis Center and would like a forensic exam, an advocate will meet them at UMC. When a victim-survivor arrives at UMC, they are immediately taken to the quiet room; a victim-survivor will never wait in the ER waiting room. An advocate will meet the victim-survivor in the quiet room to explain the medical and reporting procedures, as well as the four exam options. Advocates will then complete an intake form and ask the victim-survivor to sign a release form allowing any collected evidence to be turned over to the police. This does not require the victim-survivor to proceed with a case, but makes the evidence available if they choose to do so. The victim-survivor can withdraw consent for an exam or investigation at any time.

Advocates will ask if the victim-survivor has any questions, and offer services such as shelter, clothing, a hygiene kit, or transportation in the form of taxis or a bus pass. The advocate will stay with the victim-survivor until the SANE is ready, and will remain through the process if the victim-survivor wishes. The SANE will treat injuries first and then collect evidence. Victim-survivors are given prophylactics to treat potential STI's, and emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy. It is imperative that prior to intake and/or the forensic exam the presence of a trained confidential advocate be offered to the victim-survivor.

If a victim-survivor does not request a forensic exam, an advocate from the Rape Crisis Center will come and sit with them until the SANE is ready, and will stay through initial medical treatment if the victim-survivor wishes. Victim-survivors are given prophylactics to treat potential STI's, and emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy.

Follow-up services at the Rape Crisis Center include long-term advocacy to assist with law enforcement and police reports, understanding of the investigation process, victims of crime compensation, court advocacy, school-based advocacy and community resources such as housing referrals, food, travel, and transportation, etc. Individual and family therapy and weekly support groups are also held at the Rape Crisis Center, and are available to all victim-survivors. The Rape Crisis Center also does prevention, education, and outreach work in an attempt to minimize the rates of sexual assault in Clark County.

**This information was verified from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Victim Advocate on July 23, 2024.**

## **RAPE KIT PROCESS**

Rape kits are picked up on a routine basis from UMC by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) Crime Lab. Once an officer from LVMPD collects the kits, they are put into evidence. The LVMPD Crime Lab will process the kits. LVMPD will review all existing reports related to the incident proceed with an investigation, if it is still the desire of the victim-survivor. LVMPD will attempt to locate the suspect and prepare a search warrant for the suspect's DNA, and compare the DNA to the rape kit.

If there is no suspect, the LVMPD crime lab will run the kits through CODIS in attempt to locate a match before proceeding with an investigation.

This information was collected from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department on July 23, 2024.

If a case is taken by the North Las Vegas Police Department, they will transport the victim-survivor to UMC for a forensic exam, if necessary. Kits are left at the hospital for pickup by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. LVMPD will email the North Las Vegas Police Department to get information on the case and work with the assigned detective.

**This information was collected from the North Las Vegas Police Department on July 23, 2024.**



If a case is taken by the Henderson Police Department, an officer will complete a forensic interview with the victim-survivor and transport them to UMC, if necessary. Once the forensic exam is completed, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department will pick up the kits and test the kits automatically. Kits will be returned to the Henderson Police Department and put into evidence, and the Henderson Police Department will proceed with an investigation.

**This information was collected from the Nevada Health Right on May 28, 2024.**

If a case is taken by the Boulder City Police Department, an officer will transport a victim-survivor to UMC, if necessary. The rape kits are picked up by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department for testing through the LVMPD Crime Lab. Once kits have been tested, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department returns the kits to the Boulder City Police Department, who will proceed with an investigation.

**This information was collected from the Boulder City Police Department on November 6, 2018.**

If a case is taken by the Mesquite Police Department, an officer will transport the victim-survivor to the UMC, if necessary and introduce them to the SANE. Once the rape kit has been completed, it will be picked up by a Mesquite police officer and put into evidence. An officer will then transport it to the Clark County evidence vault so that it can be processed and tested through the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Crime Lab. Once it has been processed, the kit will return to the Mesquite evidence vault and kept for the length of the victim-survivor's life. If there is a suspect match, the Mesquite Police Department will proceed with an investigation.

**This information was collected from the Mesquite Police Department on November 5, 2018.**

## **FINANCIAL PROCEDURE**

When a victim-survivor requests a forensic exam, both the forensic exam and initial medical care and treatment are paid for by the county. The medical provider should bill the Victim Witness Assistance Center (VWAC) for reimbursement. If a victim-survivor receives the bill by accident, they should send it to the Rape Crisis Center to be forwarded to Clark County Social Services. There is an additional \$1,000 available for counseling, and an RCC advocate can help the victim-survivor apply for the Victims of Crime Program for reimbursement if they have additional expenses.

When a victim-survivor does not request a forensic exam, initial medical care and treatment are paid for by the county. The medical provider should bill the Victim Witness Assistance Center. If the victim-survivor receives a bill, they should send it to the Rape Crisis Center to be forwarded to Clark County Social Services. There is an additional \$1,000 available for counseling.

**This information was collected from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Victim Advocacy Unit on July 23, 2024.**

## **APPENDIX D - DOUGLAS COUNTY**

### **MEDICAL/ADVOCACY PROCEDURES**

Victim-survivors in Douglas County are treated at the Washoe Child Advocacy Center in Reno, Nevada. If a victim-survivor would like to have a forensic exam, they must contact the Family Support Council or the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. Whichever party is contacted will reach out to the Child Advocacy Center to inform the SANE that a victim-survivor is coming for a forensic exam. An officer will transport the victim-survivor to Reno, if necessary. Victim-survivors are informed by the Sheriff's Office of their option to have an advocate present during the exam. If the victim-survivor requests an advocate to be present, the Sheriff's Office will contact the District Attorney's Office to request an advocate from Family Support Council.

When the victim-survivor arrives at the Washoe Child Advocacy Center, the SANE will get consent from the survivor to collect evidence before interviewing the survivor to gather information for a potential case. The SANE will then collect evidence. Victim-survivors are given prophylactics to treat potential STI's and emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy. For physical injuries, the victim-survivor is directed to their OB-GYN, medical provider, or a hospital for treatment.

If a victim-survivor does not request a forensic exam they are directed to their medical provider, a hospital or another provider for treatment such as the Gardnerville Clinic, CVMC, or Carson Tahoe Hospital.

Follow up services from the Family Support Council include post-exam check-ins, a 24-hour crisis line, advocacy and crisis intervention, therapy, and a weekly women's support group.

**This information was collected from the Douglas County Sexual Assault Advocate on July 20, 2018, and the Family Support Council on July 29, 2024.**

### **RAPE KIT PROCESS**

Rape kits are processed through the Washoe County Crime lab and then returned to Douglas County Sheriff's Office. Kits are kept as evidence indefinitely.

**This information was collected from the Douglas County Sheriff's Victim Advocate on July 29, 2024.**

### **FINANCIAL PROCEDURES**

When a victim-survivor requests a forensic exam, both the forensic exam and initial medical care are paid for by the county. The medical provider should bill the Douglas County Sheriff's Office for reimbursement. For any additional expenses, the victim-survivor can apply to the Victims of Crime Program (VOCP).

When a victim-survivors does not request a forensic exam, the initial medical care and treatment that are not covered by prior resources (such as private insurance or other means of payment) are covered up to \$1000. The medical provider should bill the Douglas County Sheriff's Office for reimbursement.

**This information was collected from Douglas County Sheriff's Advocate on July 29, 2024.**

## **APPENDIX E - ELKO COUNTY**

### **MEDICAL PROCEDURES**

Victim-survivors in Elko County are treated at the Northeastern Nevada Regional Hospital in Elko, Nevada. If a victim-survivor requests a forensic exam, then they will undergo both forensic evidence collection and medical treatment. Victim-survivors will be put in a private room for this process. A law enforcement agent will complete an interview with the victim-survivor to collect information for a potential case. If the SANE- trained nurse is available, they will treat injuries and collect evidence. If the SANE-trained nurse is not available, the on-call doctor is able to treat injuries and collect evidence. Victim-survivors will be treated for injuries, given prophylactics for potential STI's and emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy. Advocacy is available through the Harbor House Committee Against Domestic Violence (CADV). If a victim-survivor would like an advocate present during the exam, they can call the CADV hotline; advocates are rarely called out for a sexual assault case by law enforcement or the hospital.

If a victim-survivor does not request a forensic exam, then they will be put in a private room and treated for injuries, given prophylactics for potential STI's and emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy by an ER doctor. Advocacy is available through the Harbor House Committee Against Domestic Violence (CADV); however, they are not initially called by hospital staff. Victim-survivors can call CADV, if they would like, however the contact information is not regularly supplied by hospital staff; the victim-survivor must rely on their, or others, knowledge that these services are available.

Follow-up services from the Harbor House Committee Against Domestic Violence include a weekly support group, court advocacy, peer counseling, food, supplies, shelter, and transportation.

**This information was collected from the NVIFN on July 9, 2024, and the Harbor House Committee Against Domestic Violence on July 9, 2024.**

### **RAPE KIT PROCESS**

If a case is taken by the Elko County Sheriff's Office, once evidence is collected, the rape kit is sealed and collected to be kept as evidence by the Elko County Sheriff's office, unless there is a suspect to whom it can be compared. If there is a comparable suspect, the kit will be sent to the Washoe County Crime Lab for testing and returned to the Elko County Sheriff's Office. Kits are kept as evidence indefinitely.

**This information was collected from the Elko County Sheriff's Office on June 17, 2024.**

If a case is taken by the Elko Police Department, the investigating officer will take custody of the completed kit and pick it up from the Northeastern Nevada Regional Hospital. The kit will be sent to the Washoe County Crime Lab for testing and returned to the Elko Police Department if evidence is needed for court.

**This information was collected from the Elko Police Department on June 17, 2024.**

## **FINANCIAL PROCEDURES**

When a victim-survivor requests a forensic exam, both the forensic exam and initial medical care and treatment are paid for by the county. The medical provider should bill the Elko County District Attorney's Office for reimbursement. If a victim-survivor is billed on accident, they should forward the bill to the Elko County District Attorney's Office.

Victim-survivors can also apply for up to \$1,000 to pay for additional care and counseling expenses.

When a victim-survivor does not request a forensic exam, initial medical care and treatment are paid for by the county. The medical provider should bill to the Elko District Attorney's Office for reimbursement. If a victim-survivor is billed on accident, they should forward the bill to the Elko County District Attorney's Office.

**This information was collected from the Elko District Attorney's Office on June 17, 2024.**

## **APPENDIX F - ESMERALDA COUNTY**

### **MEDICAL/ADVOCACY PROCEDURES**

Victim-survivors in Esmeralda County are treated at the University Medical Center (UMC) in Las Vegas, Nevada. If a victim-survivor requests a forensic exam, they will undergo both forensic evidence collection and medical treatment. First, the victim-survivor is transported to UMC in Las Vegas via law enforcement, where they are taken to the quiet room; a victim-survivor will never wait in the ER waiting room. Victim-survivors are met with an advocate from No to Abuse, which is the program covering Esmeralda county.

Advocates will stay through the end of the exam and offer transportation back if law enforcement does not provide transportation. During this time, advocates from No To Abuse can provide food, clothing, and any other personal needs to a victim-survivor.

If a victim-survivor does not request a forensic exam, No to Abuse will accompany them to their medical provider, OB-GYN, or local hospital for treatment, if they choose. No to Abuse also offers follow up services to all victim-survivors of sexual assault.

Follow-up services from No to Abuse include legal advocacy, court accompaniment, rental assistance, food, clothing, shelter, and a weekly support group.

**This information was collected from the Las Vegas Rape Crisis Center on June 20, 2018, and No to Abuse on November 13, 2018.**

## **RAPE KIT PROCESS**

Rape kits are sent to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Crime Lab for testing and returned to the Esmeralda County Sheriff's Office. Kits are kept as evidence indefinitely, or until the case is adjudicated.

**This information was collected from the Esmeralda County Sheriff's Office on August 23, 2018.**

## **FINANCIAL PROCEDURES**

When a victim-survivor requests a forensic exam, the forensic exam is paid for by the county. The medical provider should bill the Esmeralda County Sheriff's Office for reimbursement.

Both the Esmeralda County Sheriff's Office and Esmeralda County District Attorney's Office were unsure if initial medical care and treatment are paid for by the county, or if there is any coverage for follow-up care and counseling for all victim-survivors.

**This information was collected from the Esmeralda County Sheriff's Office and Esmeralda County District Attorney's Office on July 23, 2018.**

## **APPENDIX G - EUREKA COUNTY**

### **MEDICAL/ADVOCACY PROCEDURES**

Victim-survivors in Eureka County receive treatment at William B. Ririe Hospital in Ely, Nevada. If a victim-survivor requests a forensic exam, the SANE will be mobilized to William B. Ririe to complete the exam. If they are not available, the on-call doctor will treat injuries and collect evidence. Advocacy is available through the Harbor House Committee Against Domestic Violence (CADV) in Elko, Nevada. If a victim-survivor would like an advocate present during the exam, they can call the CADV hotline; advocates are rarely called out for a sexual assault case by law enforcement or the hospital.

If a victim-survivor does not request a forensic exam, they will be treated for injuries by the on-call doctor, and no evidence will be collected. Advocacy is available through the Harbor House Committee Against Domestic Violence (CADV) in Elko, Nevada.

Follow-up services from the Harbor House Committee Against Domestic Violence (CADV) include a weekly support group, court advocacy, peer counseling, food, supplies, shelter, and transportation.

**This information was collected Harbor House Committee Against Domestic Violence (CADV) on July 9, 2024.**

### **RAPE KIT PROCESS**

Rape kits are sent to the Washoe County Crime Lab for analysis.

**This information was collected from the Eureka County Sheriff's Office on July 9, 2024.**

### **FINANCIAL PROCEDURES**

When a victim-survivor requests a forensic exam, both the forensic exam and initial medical care and treatment are paid for by the county. The medical provider should bill the Eureka County Sheriff's Office for reimbursement. There is an additional \$1000 set aside for counseling.

When a victim-survivor does not request a forensic exam, initial medical care and treatment are paid for by the county. The medical provider should bill the Eureka County Sheriff's Office for reimbursement

**This information was collected from the Harbor House Committee Against Domestic Violence (CADV) on July 9, 2024.**

## **APPENDIX H - HUMBOLDT COUNTY**

### **MEDICAL/ADVOCACY PROCEDURES**

Victim-survivors in Humboldt County are treated at the Washoe Child Advocacy Center in Reno, Nevada. If a victim-survivor would like a forensic exam, the Winnemucca Police Department or the Humboldt General Hospital (wherever the victim-survivor arrives to first) contacts an advocate from Winnemucca Domestic Violence Services. This advocate explains the process and options to the victim-survivor, and lets the victim-survivor know that the advocate will stay with them throughout the examination, if the victim-survivor wishes.

The advocate will transport the victim-survivor to the Child Advocacy Center, providing them with a blanket, a pillow and, if necessary, shoes. The Winnemucca Police Department can provide transportation to the Child Advocacy Center, if necessary, for both the victim-survivor and the advocate. Prior to beginning forensic evidence collection, the SANE will get consent from the victim-survivor to collect evidence.

The SANE will then interview the victim-survivor to gather information for a potential case and begin evidence collection. Victim-survivors will be given prophylactics to treat potential STI's and emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy. For physical injuries, the victim-survivor is

directed to their OB-GYN, medical provider, or a hospital for treatment. If it is late at night, Winnemucca Domestic Violence Services can provide boarding at a hotel and food or drink as needed, if the victim-survivor wishes. Victim-survivors will be given a choice to either have their own room for privacy, or to share a room with an advocate, if they do not want to be alone.

If a victim-survivor does not request a forensic exam, an advocate from Winnemucca Domestic Violence Services will talk to the victim-survivor about how they would like to proceed. Advocates recommend that victim-survivors see a community health nurse or doctor for treatment. They will then talk to the victim-survivor about what services they need and offer those to them. Humboldt General Hospital will provide treatment for injuries, prophylactics for potential STI's and emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy, if needed.

Follow-up services from Winnemucca Domestic Violence Services include counseling referrals, temporary protection order assistance, legal advocacy, court accompaniment, individualized advocacy, shelter and support groups.

**This information was collected from the Washoe County SANE on July 20, 2024,**

## **RAPE KIT PROCESS**

If the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office gets a case, rape kits are sent to the Washoe County Crime Lab for testing and returned to the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office and kept until the case is closed. If the Winnemucca Police Department gets a case, rape kits are picked up from the Child Advocacy Center by an officer or detective. They will then drop it off at the Washoe County Crime lab for analysis. The kit is returned to the Winnemucca Police Department for use as evidence.

## **FINANCIAL PROCEDURES**

When a victim-survivor requests a forensic exam, the forensic exam is paid for by the county. The medical provider should bill to the Humboldt County District Attorney's Office for reimbursement.

For all victim-survivors, initial medical care and treatment are not paid for by the county, and the victim-survivor must pay for treatment out-of-pocket or through private insurance. For this care and treatment, or any follow-up care or counseling, victim-survivors can apply for the Victims of Crime Program for compensation.

**This information was collected from the Humboldt County District Attorney's Office on July 31, 2018.**

## **APPENDIX I - LANDER COUNTY**

### **MEDICAL/ADVOCACY PROCEDURES**



Victim-survivors in Lander County are treated at the Washoe Child Advocacy Center in Reno, Nevada. If the victim-survivor chooses to have a forensic exam, the SANE will get consent from the victim-survivor to collect evidence. The SANE will then interview the victim-survivor to gather information for a potential case and begin evidence collection. Victim-survivors are given prophylactics to treat potential STI's and emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy. For physical injuries, the victim-survivor is directed to their OB-GYN, medical provider, or a hospital for treatment.

If a victim-survivor does not request a forensic exam, they are directed to their medical provider or a community health clinic for treatment.

When asked if they provided advocacy to victim-survivors of sexual assault in Lander County, the Battle Mountain Committee Against Domestic Violence was unresponsive.

**This information was collected from the Washoe County SANE on April 18, 2024.**

## **RAPE KIT PROCESS**

Rape kits are sent to the Washoe County Crime Lab for analysis before they are returned to the Lander County Sheriff's Office to be kept as evidence. Kits are kept until the District Attorney's Office permits disposal.

**This information was collected from the Lander County Sheriff's Office on August 1, 2018.**

## **FINANCIAL PROCEDURES**

When a victim-survivor requests a forensic exam, the forensic exam is paid for by the county. The medical provider should bill the sheriff's office for reimbursement. For all victim-survivors, initial medical care and treatment are not paid for by the county. For these expenses and any further care and counseling, victim-survivors can apply for the Victims of Crime Program.

**This information was collected from the Lander County District Attorney on August 14, 2018.**

## **APPENDIX J - LINCOLN COUNTY**

### **MEDICAL/ADVOCACY PROCEDURES**

Victim-survivors in Lincoln County are treated at Grover C. Dils Hospital in Caliente, Nevada. If a victim-survivor requests a forensic exam, they will undergo both forensic evidence collection and medical treatment. To begin this process, the victim-survivor is asked if they would like to report the rape or sexual assault, and arrangements are made for a SANE exam. If the SANE nurse is unavailable, the on-call doctor will treat injuries and collect evidence.

If a victim-survivor does not request a forensic exam or answers "no" when asked if they would like to report, injuries are treated, and no evidence is collected. When asked whether or not

victim-survivors were given prophylactics for potential STI's and emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy, the emergency department at Grover C. Dils was unable to give a sure answer.

**This information was collected from Victim/Witness Services on July 31, 2018 and Grover C. Dils on November 27, 2018.**

## **RAPE KIT PROCESS**

Rape kits are sent to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Crime Lab for analysis before they are returned to the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office. Kits are kept indefinitely, or until a case has been adjudicated.

**This information was collected from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office on July 23, 2018.**

## **FINANCIAL PROCEDURES**

For victim-survivors who request a forensic exam, the forensic exam is paid for by the county. The medical provider should bill the Lincoln County District Attorney's Office for reimbursement.

For all victim-survivors, coverage for initial medical care and treatment depends on their access to insurance.

When a victim-survivors does not request a forensic exam, initial medical care and treatment are paid for by the county. The medical provider should bill to the Lyon County District Attorney's Office for reimbursement.

**This information was collected from the Lyon County Sheriff's Office on April 17, 2024.**

## **APPENDIX J - LINCOLN COUNTY**

### **MEDICAL/ADVOCACY PROCEDURES**

Victim-survivors in Lincoln County are treated at Grover C. Dils Hospital in Caliente, Nevada. If a victim-survivor requests a forensic exam, they will undergo both forensic evidence collection and medical treatment. To begin this process, the victim-survivor is asked if they would like to report the rape or sexual assault, and arrangements are made for a SANE exam. If the SANE nurse is unavailable, the on-call doctor will treat injuries and collect evidence.

If a victim-survivor does not request a forensic exam or answers "no" when asked if they would like to report, injuries are treated, and no evidence is collected. When asked whether or not victim-survivors were given prophylactics for potential STI's and emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy, the emergency department at Grover C. Dils was unable to give a sure answer.

**This information was collected from Victim/Witness Services on July 31, 2018 and Grover C. Dils on November 27, 2018.**

### **RAPE KIT PROCESS**

Rape kits are sent to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Crime Lab for analysis before they are returned to the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office. Kits are kept indefinitely, or until a case has been adjudicated.

**This information was collected from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office on July 23, 2018.**

### **FINANCIAL PROCEDURES**

For victim-survivors who request a forensic exam, the forensic exam is paid for by the county. The medical provider should bill the Lincoln County District Attorney's Office for reimbursement.

For all victim-survivors, coverage for initial medical care and treatment depends on their access to insurance.

## **APPENDIX K - LYON COUNTY**

### **MEDICAL/ADVOCACY PROCEDURES**

Victim-survivors in Lyon County are treated at the Tahoe Carson Hospital in Carson City, Nevada. If the victim-survivor reports to a police station or hospital, an advocate from Carson City's Advocates to End Domestic Violence SART team, the Sexual Assault Response Advocates (S.A.R.A), will be contacted. The advocate will go over options with the victim-survivor, and if the victim-survivor chooses to have a forensic exam, the SANE will get consent from the victim-survivor to collect evidence. The SANE will then interview the victim-survivor to gather information for a potential case and begin evidence collection.

Victim-survivors are given prophylactics to treat potential STI's and emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy. For physical injuries, the victim-survivor is directed to their OB-GYN, medical provider, or a hospital for treatment.

For additional medical treatment, S.A.R.A. suggests that a victim-survivor go to their medical provider or OB-GYN for an exam.

Follow up services for victim-survivors from Advocates to End Domestic Violence include court accompaniment, assistance with reimbursement, and assistance with protection orders.

**This information was collected from Advocates to End Domestic Violence on**

### **RAPE KIT PROCESS**

If the case goes to the Lyon County Sheriff's Office, rape kits are locked into evidence unless there is a suspect to whom they can compare the evidence. If there is a suspect, kits are sent to the Washoe County Crime Lab for analysis.

**This information was collected from the Lyon County Sheriff's Office on July April 17, 2024.**

If the case goes to the Yerington Police Department, they can provide transportation to the Child Advocacy Center, if necessary. Once the kit has been completed, it is picked up by an officer from the Yerington Police Department. If there are suspects, it will be sent to the Washoe County Crime Lab for testing. If there are no suspects, it will be held onto by the Yerington Police Department until there are suspects.

**This information was collected from the Yerington Police Department on October 22, 2018.**

## **FINANCIAL PROCEDURES**

When a victim-survivor requests a forensic exam, the forensic exam and initial medical care and treatment are paid for by the county. The medical provider should bill to the Lyon County District Attorney's Office for reimbursement. There is an additional \$1,000 set aside for counseling.

When a victim-survivors does not request a forensic exam, initial medical care and treatment are paid for by the county. The medical provider should bill to the Lyon County District Attorney's Office for reimbursement.

**This information was collected from the Lyon County Sheriff's Office on April 17, 2024.**

## **APPENDIX L - MINERAL COUNTY**

### **MEDICAL/ADVOCACY PROCEDURES**

Victim-survivors in Mineral County are treated at the Washoe Child Advocacy Center in Reno, Nevada. If a victim-survivor reaches out to the county program, CAHS Advocates to End Domestic Violence, and requests a forensic exam, an advocate will provide the victim-survivor with transportation to the Child Advocacy Center. The advocate will advise the client not to shower until after the forensic exam is complete. Upon arrival, advocates will inform clients of the exam process and then collect any clothing that was worn during the assault and put it into a paper bag to preserve evidence. Prior to beginning, the SANE will get consent from the victim-survivor to collect evidence. The SANE will then interview the victim-survivor to gather information for a potential case and begin evidence collection. Victim-survivors are given prophylactics to treat potential STI's and emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy. For physical injuries, CAHS can connect the victim-survivor to the Mineral County community health nurse for treatment.

If a victim-survivor does not request a forensic exam, a CAHS advocate will recommend going to the community health nurse for treatment. She can provide treatment for injuries, prophylactics to treat any potential STI's, and emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy. Follow-up services from CAHS are available to all victim-survivors, regardless of whether or not they had a forensic exam. CAHS Advocates to End Domestic Violence offers one-on-one peer counseling from Monday through Friday to all clients. If a victim-survivor wants to file a temporary protection order, CAHS can assist them with that as well. Advocates also provide court accompaniment and information about VARN if a victim-survivor needs assistance with an attorney.

### **CAHS Advocates to End Domestic Violence on November 2, 2018.**

#### **RAPE KIT PROCESS**

The Mineral County Sheriff's Office reported that they assume the kits are taken to the Washoe County Crime Lab and had no further information on the process.

The Child Advocacy Center reports that it is the responsibility of the agency who orders the forensic exam to transport the kit to the Washoe County Crime Lab; for example, if law enforcement orders a forensic exam, they are to pick up the kit and take it to the Washoe County Crime Lab. The SANE will notify county law enforcement when they are able to pick up the kit.

### **This information was collected from the Mineral County Sheriff's Office on July 18, 2018.**

During the research process, both the Mineral County District Attorney's Office and the Mineral County Sheriff's Office were contacted. Neither was sure if any costs were paid for by the county, no matter whether the victim-survivor requested a forensic exam or not, and were unsure by whom the costs were covered. The Sheriff's Office recommended contacting the District Attorney's Office, and the District Attorney's Office stated they that they were unsure, and recommended contacting the Attorney General's Office. CAHS reports that the county pays for all forensic and medical examinations, however, were also unsure who is directly billed.

The Child Advocacy Center reports that the bill for a forensic exam will go directly to the agency who orders the exam; for example, if law enforcement orders the exam, they will receive the bill.

## **APPENDIX M - NYE COUNTY**

### **MEDICAL/ADVOCACY PROCEDURES**

Victim-survivors in Nye County are treated at the University Medical Center (UMC) in Las Vegas, Nevada. If a victim-survivor requests a forensic exam, they will undergo both forensic evidence collection and medical treatment. First, the victim-survivor is transported to UMC in Las Vegas via law enforcement, where they are taken to the quiet room; a victim-survivor will never wait in the ER waiting room. Victim-survivors are met with an advocate from No to

Abuse. If the victim-survivor wishes, advocates will stay through the end of the exam and offer transportation back if law enforcement does not provide transportation. During this time, advocates from No to Abuse can provide food, clothing, and any other personal needs to a victim-survivor.

If a victim-survivor does not request a forensic exam, No to Abuse will accompany them to the local hospital for treatment, if they choose. No to Abuse also offers follow up services to all victim-survivors of sexual assault. Desert View Hospital in Pahrump will give victim-survivors prophylactics to treat potential STI's; however, if the victim-survivor wants emergency contraception, Desert View will not directly provide it. They will, however, refer victim-survivors to where they can acquire emergency contraception within 3-5 days.

Follow-up services from No to Abuse include legal advocacy, court accompaniment, rental assistance, food, clothing, shelter, and a weekly support group.

**This information was collected from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Victim Advocate on July 23, 2018, No to Abuse on June 26, 2024.**

## **RAPE KIT PROCESS**

Rape kits are tested by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Crime Lab and made available for pickup for the Nye County Sheriff's Office. Once kits return to the Nye County Sheriff's Office, they are stored as evidence and kept forever, regardless of the outcome of a case, or if a case is closed.

**This information was collected from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Victim Witness Advocate on July 23, 2018.**

## **FINANCIAL PROCEDURES**

When a victim-survivor requests a forensic exam, the forensic exam is paid for by the county. The medical provider should bill the Nye County Sheriff's Office for reimbursement.

For all victim-survivors, initial medical care and treatment are not paid for by the county. For follow-up care and counseling, victim-survivors can access county funds from Nye County Health and Human Services.

**This information was collected from the Nye County Sheriff's Office and the Nye County District Attorney's Office on July 31, 2018.**

## **APPENDIX N - PERSHING COUNTY**

### **MEDICAL/ADVOCACY PROCEDURES**

Victim-survivors in Pershing County are treated at the Washoe Child Advocacy Center in Reno, Nevada. If a victim-survivor chooses to have a forensic exam and would like an advocate to be present, an advocate from Domestic Violence Intervention in Lovelock will accompany the victim-survivor to Reno. The victim-survivor and advocate, if requested, will be transferred to Reno by law enforcement. If a victim-survivor would rather have a friend or relative present, an advocate will not be contacted. When the victim-survivor arrives at the Child Advocacy Center, the SANE will get consent from the victim-survivor to collect evidence. The SANE will then interview the victim-survivor to gather information for a potential case and begin evidence collection. Victim-survivors are given prophylactics to treat potential STI's and emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy. For physical injuries, the victim-survivor is directed to their OB-GYN, medical provider, or a hospital for treatment.

If a victim-survivor does not request a forensic exam, they are directed to their medical provider, a hospital, or another provider for treatment. Domestic Violence Intervention is not usually contacted during this process unless they are the first responder. If they are the first responder, they will encourage the victim-survivor to get a forensic exam and explain the benefits of one.

Follow up services from Domestic Violence Intervention include a follow-up to check on a victim-survivor's well-being. During this check-in, any physical, emotional or mental health issues will be discussed, and Domestic Violence Intervention can offer resources such as support groups, counseling, legal assistance, etc. to the victim-survivor.

#### **Pershing County Domestic Violence Intervention on July 5, 2024.**

#### **RAPE KIT PROCESS**

Rape kits are sent to the Washoe County Crime Lab for analysis before they are returned to the Pershing County Sheriff's Office. Kits are kept as evidence forever.

**This information was collected from the Pershing County Domestic Violence Intervention on July 5, 2024.**

#### **FINANCIAL PROCEDURES**

When a victim-survivor requests a forensic exam, both the forensic exam and initial medical care and treatment are paid for by the county. The medical provider should bill the county for reimbursement. For any follow-up care or counseling, the victim-survivor can apply for the Victims of Crime Program. When a victim-survivor does not request a forensic exam, the Pershing County District Attorney's Office was unsure whether or not initial care and treatment are paid for by the county.

**This information was collected from the Pershing County District Attorney's Office on July 14, 2018.**

#### **APPENDIX 0 - STOREY COUNTY**



## **MEDICAL/ADVOCACY PROCEDURES**

Victim-survivors in Storey County are treated at the Carson City Advocates to End Domestic Violence (AEDV) SART location. Advocacy is available through the AEDV Sexual Assault Response Advocates (S.A.R.A). If the victim-survivor reports to a police station or hospital, an advocate will be contacted to transfer them to the SART specialty facility. Upon arrival, the victim-survivor will talk with an advocate, who will go over options with them.

If the victim-survivor chooses to report immediately, an advocate will reach out to law enforcement so that a detective can order a forensic exam, file a police report, and connect the case number of the report to the rape kit. If a survivor wants a Jane Doe exam, the SART team will order the exam, as there is not yet a police report to connect it to. Victim- survivors will receive either a full forensic or Jane Doe exam from one of four SART nurses. Forensic medical care includes prophylactics to prevent potential STI's and emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy. Only if a victim-survivor needs emergency medical care, will they be transferred to Carson-Tahoe Hospital.

For medical treatment, S.A.R.A. will suggest that a victim-survivor go to their medical provider or OB-GYN for an exam. If a victim-survivor does not wish to go to their medical provider, S.A.R.A. can direct them to the Carson City Community Health Clinic. If a victim- survivor chooses to do this, they will be given a blue card by an advocate so that they do not have to explain that they are a survivor to get an exam. If a victim-survivor needs emergency medical care, they will be transferred to Carson-Tahoe Hospital.

Follow-up services for victim-survivors from Advocates to End Domestic Violence includes court accompaniment, assistance with reimbursement for medical treatment, and counseling and assistance with protection orders.

**This information was collected from Advocates to End Domestic Violence June 13, 2024**

## **RAPE KIT PROCESS**

Rape kits are sent to the Washoe County Crime Lab for testing.

**This information was collected from the Storey County District Attorney's Office June 13, 2024.**

## **FINANCIAL PROCEDURES**

When a victim-survivor requests a forensic exam, both the forensic exam and initial medical care and treatment are paid for by the county. The medical provider should bill Washoe County for reimbursement, per their agreement with Storey County. Washoe County will bill the Storey County sheriff's office for all forensic exams. Bills for initial medical care and treatment should be sent to the Storey County District Attorney's Office.

For any follow-up care or counseling, the victim-survivor can apply for the Victims of Crime Program.

When a victim-survivor does not request a forensic exam, initial medical care and treatment are paid for by the county. The medical provider should bill the Storey County District Attorney's Office for reimbursement.

**This information was collected from the Storey County District Attorney's Office on June 13, 2024.**

## **APPENDIX P - WASHOE COUNTY**

### **MEDICAL/ADVOCACY PROCEDURES**

Victim-survivors in Washoe County are treated at the Washoe Child Advocacy Center in Reno, Nevada. There are three victim's advocate programs in Washoe County: Crisis Support Services in the Reno area, Sierra Community House in Tahoe, and Safe Embrace in Reno. If a victim-survivor in Reno requests a forensic exam, all immediate advocacy is handled through the Crisis Support Services Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS) Advocates. An advocate will be contacted if a survivor reports to a hospital or law enforcement.

If a victim-survivor calls Crisis Support Services, an advocate will let them know their options, and if the victim-survivor would like a forensic exam, the SASS dispatcher will alert the Child Advocacy Center so that the SANE will be on-site. An advocate will meet the victim-survivor there. If a victim-survivor has filed a report, the advocate will link the case number to the rape kit; if a victim-survivor has not filed a report, a SASS advocate will go over the Jane Doe exam option. In Washoe County, a victim-survivor who has had a Jane Doe forensic exam has twenty years to file a police report before the rape kit is destroyed. A victim-survivor who chooses either type of forensic exam will undergo evidence collection with the SANE, and be given prophylactics to treat potential STI's and emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy.

If a victim-survivor in the Tahoe area requests a forensic exam, Sierra Community House will be contacted by law enforcement or a hospital. An advocate will go over their services with the victim-survivor and talk to them about their options. If a victim-survivor decides to proceed with a forensic exam, they are transported to the Child Advocacy Center by Sierra Community House. Prior to beginning, the SANE will get consent from the victim-survivor to collect evidence. The SANE will then interview the victim-survivor to gather information for a potential case and begin evidence collection. Victim-survivors are given prophylactics to treat potential STI's and emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy. For physical injuries, the victim-survivor is directed to their OB-GYN, medical provider, or a hospital for treatment.

If a victim-survivor in Reno does not request a forensic exam, a SASS advocate will provide resources in the community to fit their specific needs. This can include directing victim-survivors to a medical clinic for STI prevention, emergency contraception, and treatment for injuries. If a victim-survivor in the Tahoe area does not request a forensic exam, Sierra

Community House will talk to them about how the exam works and can benefit them to ensure that they understand the process. If the victim-survivor still chooses not to have an exam, Sierra Community House will refer them to local medical facilities for treatment, and offer their follow up services.

Follow-up services for Crisis Support Services include follow-up calls one day, one week, one month and up to six months after a forensic exam if a survivor has expressed interest. When a victim-survivor does not request a forensic exam, initial medical care and treatment are paid for by the county, except for any HIV/STI treatment or emergency contraception. The medical provider should bill the Washoe County District Attorney's office for reimbursement. Once they no longer require follow-up calls, they are informed that they are always able to call the SASS line for resources, advocacy or referrals.

Advocates can also direct survivors to therapists or counselors that specialize in PTSD, sexual assault or trauma, local shelters, offer court accompaniment, assist with temporary protection orders and provide information on reporting. Crisis Support Services also offers a free weekly support group for survivors of sexual assault, regardless of whether they decided to report. While Safe Embrace does not offer immediate advocacy, they are able to offer victim-survivors of sexual assault housing services and transportation. Follow-up services for Sierra Community House includes advocacy, victim's compensation assistance, therapy, peer counseling, and a follow-up call within 48 hours of a forensic exam.

**Sierra Community House on February 13, 2024, and Crisis Support Services on October 16, 2018.**

## **RAPE KIT PROCESS**

If a sexual assault happens anywhere in Washoe County other than Reno or Sparks, rape kits are taken as evidence by the Washoe County Sheriff's Office. They are reviewed per examination request and then put in the queue for processing with the Washoe County Crime Lab.

This information was collected from the Washoe County Sheriff's Office on February 13, 2024.

If a sexual assault happens in Reno, rape kits are taken as evidence by the Reno Police Department. Reno PD will pick up kits from the Child Advocacy Center and keep the kits as evidence at the police department. They will then fill out a processing request and send kits to the Washoe County Crime Lab to be tested. Once testing is complete, the kit is returned to the Reno police department and booked as evidence.

**This information was collected from the Reno Police Department on October 15, 2018.**

If a sexual assault happens in Sparks, rape kits are picked up from the Child Advocacy Center by the Sparks Police Department and kept as evidence. Kits will then be sent to the Washoe County Crime Lab for testing and analysis. Within a week to two weeks of testing, the kit is returned to the Sparks Police Department to be used as evidence.

## **FINANCIAL PROCEDURES**

When a victim-survivor requests a forensic exam, both the forensic exam and initial medical care and treatment are paid for by the county. The medical provider should bill the Washoe County District Attorney's office for reimbursement. There is an additional \$1000 set aside for counseling.

When a victim-survivor does not request a forensic exam, initial medical care and treatment are paid for by the county, except for any HIV/STI treatment or emergency contraception. The medical provider should bill the Washoe County District Attorney's office for reimbursement.

## **APPENDIX Q - WHITE PINE COUNTY**

### **MEDICAL/ADVOCACY PROCEDURES**

Victim-survivors in White Pine County are treated at William B. Ririe Hospital in Ely, Nevada. If a victim-survivor requests a forensic exam, the SANE nurse will be mobilized to William B. Ririe to complete the exam. If they are not available, the on-call doctor will treat injuries and collect evidence. Advocacy is available through the Harbor House Committee Against Domestic Violence (CADV) in Elko, Nevada. If a victim-survivor would like an advocate present during the exam, they can call the CADV hotline; advocates are rarely called out for a sexual assault case by law enforcement or the hospital.

If a victim-survivor does not request a forensic exam, they will be treated for injuries by the on-call doctor, and no evidence will be collected. Advocacy is available through the Harbor House Committee Against Domestic Violence (CADV) in Elko, Nevada. Follow-up services from the Harbor House Committee Against Domestic Violence (CADV) include a weekly support group, court advocacy, peer counseling, food, supplies, shelter, and transportation.

**This information was collected from the Harbor House Committee Against Domestic Violence CADV on June 11, 2024.**

### **RAPE KIT PROCESS**

Rape kits are tested within thirty days and then stored in evidence at the White Pine County Sheriff's Office.

**This information was collected from the White Pine County Sheriff's Office on June 11, 2024.**

### **FINANCIAL PROCEDURES**

When a victim-survivor requests a forensic exam, the forensic exam is paid for by the county. The medical provider should bill to the White Pine County Sheriff's Office for reimbursement. Coverage for initial medical care and treatment will depend on the victim-survivor's access to insurance. There is an additional \$1,000 set aside for counseling.

When a victim-survivor does not request a forensic exam, coverage for initial medical care and treatment depend on the victim-survivor's access to insurance.