

For more information on developing a SANE program or becoming a certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE), please contact:

Office of the Attorney General
Sexual Assault Prevention
& Crisis Services Program
Crime Victim Services Division 011-1
Post Office Box 12548
Austin, TX 78711-2548
(800) 983-9933 Statewide
(512) 936-1270 in Austin
(512) 936-1650 FAX

MISSION STATEMENT

The Office of the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Prevention & Crisis Services Program (OAG SAPCS) is committed to the training and certification of registered nurses as Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE). The training is provided in communities where the District or County Attorney, law enforcement, medical facilities and programs providing services to survivors of sexual assault have signed a cooperative working agreement with the OAG SAPCS.



GREG ABBOTT
Attorney General
of Texas

CRIME VICTIM services division

The Crime Victim Services Division consists of four sections: the Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services Program, the Grant and Contract Management Section, the Statewide Automated Victim Notification Program and the Crime Victims' Compensation Program.

Office of the Attorney General
P. O. Box 12198
Austin, Texas 78711-2198

(800) 983-9933 Statewide
(512) 936-1200 in Austin
(512) 936-1800 Fax
www.oag.state.tx.us

SANE:
SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINER

**TEXAS
VINE**
Toll-Free 1-877-TX4-VINE; 1-877-894-8463

REV 1/06



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

THE SANE

the sane

PROGRAM

program

THE SANE PROGRAM

What is a SANE?

A Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) is a registered nurse who has been specially trained to:

- 1) provide comprehensive care to sexual assault survivors;
- 2) conduct medical/forensic exams for evidence collection;
- 3) show compassion and sensitivity to survivors of sexual assault; and
- 4) provide effective courtroom testimony.

What is a sexual assault medical/forensic exam?

It is an examination performed by medical personnel for the purpose of collecting evidence following a sexual assault. The presence or absence of physical evidence or trauma does not prove whether a person has been sexu-

ally assaulted. Rather, it may provide supportive evidence to be used during legal proceedings. It is not medical treatment.

What happens during a sexual assault exam?

A history is taken by the SANE to identify any injuries, determine the location of possible evidence and provide compassionate care to the patient. The next step is a head-to-toe examination to identify any body surface injuries. The third part of the examination is a detailed genital examination, conducted to identify any injuries to the genitalia. The final portion of the examination is the collection of forensic evidence when indicated.

What is a sexual assault kit?

The sexual assault kit (sometimes referred to as a rape kit), is used to collect physical forensic evidence when indicated as a part of a sexual assault examination. Kits can be purchased commercially or made from materials readily available at most medical facilities.

Do SANEs perform exams on both adults and children?

Yes. SANE training prepares the RN to perform exams on both adult and child, male and female survivors of sexual assault or abuse.

How does a SANE program benefit a sexual assault survivor?

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, SANE programs have made a profound difference in the quality of care provided to sexual assault survivors. In addition to helping preserve the survivor's dignity and reduce psycho-

logical trauma through prompt, compassionate care, SANE programs are enhancing forensic evidence collection for more effective investigations and better prosecutions.

BECOMING A CERTIFIED SANE

What does a registered nurse need to do to become a certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE)?

A registered nurse must complete classroom and clinical training before becoming certified to perform sexual assault examinations independently. These requirements will vary, depending on where the registered nurse receives training.

The classroom course has adult, pediatric and courtroom components and includes the following:

- Advocacy
- Survivor symptomology
- Documentation
- History-taking skills
- Collection of forensic evidence
- Use of a sexual assault kit
- Courtroom testimony

The clinical training requirements include:

- Well-woman examinations
- Well-child exams
- Sexual assault examinations using a collection kit
- Sexual assault examinations on adults and children
- Courtroom observation

THE COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Does every community in Texas have a SANE program?

No. However, many communities are aware of the benefits and are actively pursuing the development of a program.

What is the process for developing a SANE program?

A SANE program is a coordinated community response to sexual assault. For a SANE program to be successful, those who provide services to survivors of sexual assault must work together with law enforcement, medical and criminal justice authorities to address the crime. The network or task force that is formed by these parties is often known as a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). The goal of a SART is to develop a community protocol for responding to sexual assaults and implement a cooperative working agreement among the member agencies. This provides clarification of the roles and responsibilities of each party and establishes accountability to the survivor and the community.