

DV/SA Victim Advocacy Centers

**Belcourt - Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa  
Hearts of Hope**  
Crisis Line: 701.477.0002  
Office: 701.477.0002  
E-mail: [gourneau@utma.com](mailto:gourneau@utma.com)

**Beulah  
Women's Action & Resource Center**  
Crisis Line: 701.873.2274  
Office: 701.873.2274  
[mercerwarc.com](http://mercerwarc.com)

**Bismarck  
Abused Adult Resource Center**  
Crisis Line: 866.341.7009  
Office: 701.222.8370  
[abusedadultresourcecenter.com](http://abusedadultresourcecenter.com)

**Bottineau  
Family Crisis Center**  
Crisis Line: 800.398.1098  
Office: 701.228.2028  
[famcrisiscenter.org](http://famcrisiscenter.org)

**Dickinson  
Domestic Violence & Rape Crisis Center**  
Crisis Line: 888.225.4506  
Office: 701.225.4506  
[dvrcnd.com](http://dvrcnd.com)

**Ellendale  
Kedish House**  
Crisis Line: 877.349.5118  
Office: 701.349.4729  
[kedish-house.com](http://kedish-house.com)

**Fargo  
Rape and Abuse Crisis Center**  
Crisis Line: 800.344.7273  
Office: 701.293.7273  
[raccfm.com](http://raccfm.com)

**Fort Totten - Spirit Lake Nation  
Spirit Lake Victim Assistance**  
Crisis Line: 701.766.1816  
Office: 701.766.1816  
[spiritlakenation.com/programs/spirit-lake-victim-assistance/](http://spiritlakenation.com/programs/spirit-lake-victim-assistance/)

**Grafton  
Domestic Violence & Abuse Center Inc.**  
Crisis Line: 866.435.7490  
Office: 701.331.0466  
[dvacnd.org](http://dvacnd.org)

**Grand Forks  
Community Violence Intervention Center**  
Crisis Line: 866.746.8900  
Office: 701.746.0405  
[cviconline.org](http://cviconline.org)

**Jamestown  
Safe Shelter**  
Crisis Line: 888.353.7233  
Office: 701.251.2300  
[safeshelterjamestown.org](http://safeshelterjamestown.org)

**Lisbon  
Abuse Resource Network**  
Crisis Line: 701.683.5061  
Office: 701.683.5061  
[abuseresourcenetwork.org](http://abuseresourcenetwork.org)

**Minot  
Domestic Violence Crisis Center**  
Crisis Line: 701.852.2258  
Office: 701.852.2258  
[courage4change.org](http://courage4change.org)

**Stanley  
Domestic Violence Program NW ND**  
Crisis Line: 800.273.8232  
Office: 701.628.3233  
[dvpnwnd.weebly.com](http://dvpnwnd.weebly.com)

**Valley City  
Abused Persons Outreach Center**  
Crisis Line: 701.845.0072  
Office: 701.845.0078  
[apocnd.org](http://apocnd.org)

**Wahpeton  
Three Rivers Crisis Center**  
Crisis Line: 701.642.2115  
Office: 701.642.2115  
[threeriverscrisiscenter.com](http://threeriverscrisiscenter.com)

**Washburn  
McLean Family Resource Center**  
Crisis Line: 701.462.8643  
Office: 701.462.8643  
[mcleanfrfc.weebly.com](http://mcleanfrfc.weebly.com)

**Williston  
Family Crisis Shelter**  
Crisis Line: 701.770.5180  
Office: 701.572.0757  
[familycrisisshelter.com](http://familycrisisshelter.com)

Concerns You May Have

Pregnancy

During the forensic medical exam, you can be tested to determine if you are currently pregnant. To prevent pregnancy from the assault, discuss emergency contraception with the SANE or doctor. Emergency contraceptives are available at most pharmacies and are available over the counter. If you were already pregnant before the assault, emergency contraceptives will not impact the pregnancy. Six weeks after the exam, you can be tested to determine pregnancy from the assault. *Note: Any follow-up care after the forensic medical exam is not covered by the state and will be at your own expense.*

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

STIs can be transmitted during a sexual assault and may be treatable with preventive medicine. If you are concerned about STIs, discuss them with the SANE or doctor during the exam. Ask an advocate or the SANE about free and confidential STI testing options. You can also request a patient information form that lists STI treatment medication, dosage, and purpose of the medication. *Note: You may need to wait 2-3 weeks after the assault to test for certain STIs. Talk to the SANE or doctor about your options.*

HIV/AIDS

Talk to the SANE or doctor about how likely you are to get HIV/AIDS, what treatments are available, and what option is best for you. You can pass HIV/AIDS on to others before treatment, so talk to a health care provider before engaging in any sexual activity. Ask an advocate, SANE, or doctor for more information on free and confidential STI and HIV testing.



521 E Main Avenue, Suite 320  
Bismarck, ND 58501

Phone: 701.255.6240  
Toll Free: 888.255.6240

[nddsvc.org](http://nddsvc.org)  
[contact@nddsvc.org](mailto:contact@nddsvc.org)



NDD SVC does not provide direct services to victims and survivors. Contact a DV/SA advocacy center near you if you are looking for support. If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

This project was supported by Grant No. 15JOVW-24-GG-00961-MUMU, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

View this directory online: [nddsvc.org/find-help](http://nddsvc.org/find-help)



Sexual Assault: Medical Treatment & Reporting Options

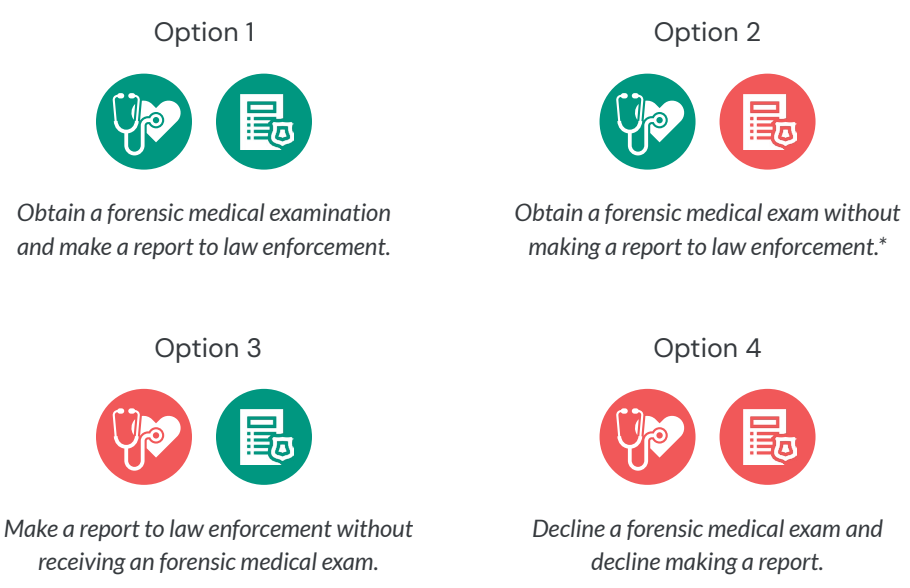


## What is Sexual Assault?

Sexual assault is sexual contact or behavior that happens without consent. This includes any unwanted, forced, or coerced sexual contact. Forms of sexual assault include: rape, incest, unwanted touching (groping, fondling, forced kissing, etc.), alcohol or drug-facilitated sexual assault, and child sexual abuse.

## Medical Treatment & Reporting Options

After a sexual assault, you have several options for receiving medical care and reporting the crime to law enforcement.



You are not required to make a report or get medical care if you do not want to. However, seeking medical care after the assault can help preserve potential evidence if you are looking to make a report. Health care professionals can also assess you for any injuries and test for pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Ultimately, it is your choice if you would like to make a report, receive medical care, or do neither. If you don’t want to make a report now, you can still report at a later time.

*\*In accordance with North Dakota law, health care professionals are required to report sexual assaults to law enforcement. So even if you do not report to law enforcement, if you seek medical care, a report of the assault will be made to law enforcement on your behalf. However, health care professionals cannot include your identifying information in the report without your consent. If you do not consent to sharing your information with law enforcement, the report from the health care professional will be anonymous.*

## Forensic Medical Examinations

If you seek medical care after a sexual assault, you may choose to have a forensic medical exam. This exam is most often completed by a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, also known as a SANE nurse. It’s recommended that forensic exams are completed within 120 hours of the sexual assault. This time limit is due to when DNA evidence collection is most effective. If it has been more than 120 hours since the assault, medical staff can evaluate your situation to determine if forensic evidence collection is still appropriate.

A forensic medical exam has two parts. The “forensic” part of the exam is used to collect DNA evidence of the sexual assault. This includes taking samples from your body to detect any hair, cells, or bodily fluids from the offender. The SANE or doctor may also photograph any injuries you may have. To gather further evidence, they may ask to take the clothing you wore during or right after the assault. The evidence from the forensic exam is then put into a sexual assault evidence collection kit, sometimes referred to as a “rape kit.” The rape kit is then stored by law enforcement. Completing a rape kit does not mean you have to report the crime to law enforcement, but the process gives you the chance to safely store evidence should you decide to report at a later time. You can track the rape kit’s the status and location by going to [nd.track-kit.us](https://nd.track-kit.us). Ask an advocate or the SANE for more information on the rape kit process.

The “medical” part of the forensic medical exam is to assess and treat you for any physical injuries you may have from the assault. You can consent to a medical exam without consenting to forensic evidence collection. It is up to you to decide if you want a forensic exam, a medical exam, or a full forensic medical exam.

The forensic medical exam is conducted as privately as possible. It can take 2-4 hours. You may have a support person, such as an advocate, present during the exam. A SANE nurse or doctor will explain the exam procedures, conduct the exam, collect evidence, treat any injuries, and prescribe any necessary medication. You have the right to know why tests or procedures are being performed and the risks of any medications offered. Ask questions if you are unsure about anything, and know that you can stop, pause, or skip any part of the exam at any time.

You are not required to pay for any part of the exam that is part of the evidence collection process. Any medications that you receive as a part of exam are also covered. The hospital or clinic will be reimbursed by the North Dakota Office of Attorney General and cannot bill you or your insurance company. You will, however, be responsible for the costs of additional care you may receive not related to the collection of evidence. You may be asked to provide insurance information and/or eligibility for Medicaid or Indian Health Services. If you do not have coverage or there are costs not covered by insurance, you may be eligible to have these costs paid for by the North Dakota Crime Victims Compensation Fund. For additional information, contact ND Crime Victim’s Compensation at 1.800.445.2322.

## Making a Report to Law Enforcement

*Note: If you choose to report the sexual assault, your identifying information may go into the law enforcement agency’s data base and may be subject to North Dakota’s open records law.*

### Immediate investigation

You may choose to report the details of the sexual assault to law enforcement at the time of the forensic medical exam. If you do, consider that:

- You may qualify to receive funds from the North Dakota Crime Victims Compensation Fund if you cooperate with law enforcement and prosecution.
- Law enforcement can investigate the crime scene before evidence is lost and will also attempt to locate and interview witnesses while memories are fresh.
- An immediate investigation may help in collecting evidence and could help your case if it goes through the legal process.

### Delayed investigation

You may choose to not immediately report the assault. If you wait to make a report at a later time, consider that:

- You can still receive a forensic medical exam to preserve any forensic evidence.
- An investigation of the assault could be more difficult. Evidence and witnesses disappear and memories fade.
- Delayed reporting may affect how your case is perceived in court, and it may be harder to convict the offender of the sexual assault.

## When Alcohol or Drugs are Used in a Sexual Assault

If you think you were given a drug without your knowledge prior to the assault, let law enforcement and/or health care professionals know. Alcohol is the most commonly used substance in a sexual assault, but other common drugs used include: Benadryl, eye drops, Morphine, Codeine, Methadone, Rohypnol, GHB, Ketamine, and Ecstasy.

A urine test may be used to detect common drugs used during a drug-facilitated sexual assault. Before consenting to urine collection, you may want to discuss the possible results of a urine test with an advocate. You have the right not to answer questions related to being involved in criminal activity, including the use of drugs and alcohol. You have the right to refuse to answer questions from law enforcement related to the assault, even if you are under the age of 18.

If illegal drug use or underage drinking on your part is discovered as part of a forensic medical examination, you cannot be prosecuted. This does not include any other criminal activity discovered outside of the assault.