

Reporting Options for Sexual Assault & MFE

Law Enforcement

If you report to police and consent to have your kit tested, it will be sent for testing at a crime lab within 21 days of when the investigating law enforcement agency receives it. Most lab testing is completed within 6 months (180 days) of receiving the kit but this timeline may be subject to change based on lab resources. You can change your mind about working with law enforcement at any time, and about having your kit tested (up until the crime lab tests it).

Medical

This option allows you to get an exam, including evidence collection, but not participate in a law enforcement investigation. It also allows you to have your evidence tested at a crime lab if you give consent for testing. Law enforcement will be given your name and will likely contact you to provide you with information, but there is no requirement that you speak with them.

Anonymous

Anonymous reporting allows you to get a medical forensic exam, but remain anonymous to the police and your name is NOT written on the outside of the sexual assault evidence collection kit. The medical facility will have your contact information, but law enforcement will not.

With this option, your sexual assault evidence collection kit will NOT be sent for testing at a crime lab and will be stored at the law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction where the assault happened for at least the statute of limitations of the crime committed.

You will be given a case number that can be used to locate your sexual assault evidence collection kit if you decide at a later date that you would like to work with the police on your case. This case number will also be written in your medical file — so if you misplace it, the medical facility you visited can get it for you.

For more information, visit youhavetherightco.org

Community Resources

24/7 MFE Locations:

UC Health Longs Peak Hospital

720-718-7000

1750 E. Ken Pratt Blvd., Longmont, CO 80504

Boulder Community Health (Foothills Hospital)

303-415-7000

4747 Arapahoe Ave., Boulder, CO 80303

Law Enforcement:

Emergency

911

Non-Emergency CU Boulder Police Department

303-492-6666

Non-Emergency Boulder Police Department

303-441-3333

Confidential Victim Support Services:

CU Boulder Office of Victim Assistance (OVA)

303-492-8855

colorado.edu/ova

Moving to End Sexual Assault (MESA) 24/7

303-443-7300

movingtoendsexualassault.org

Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Non-Violence

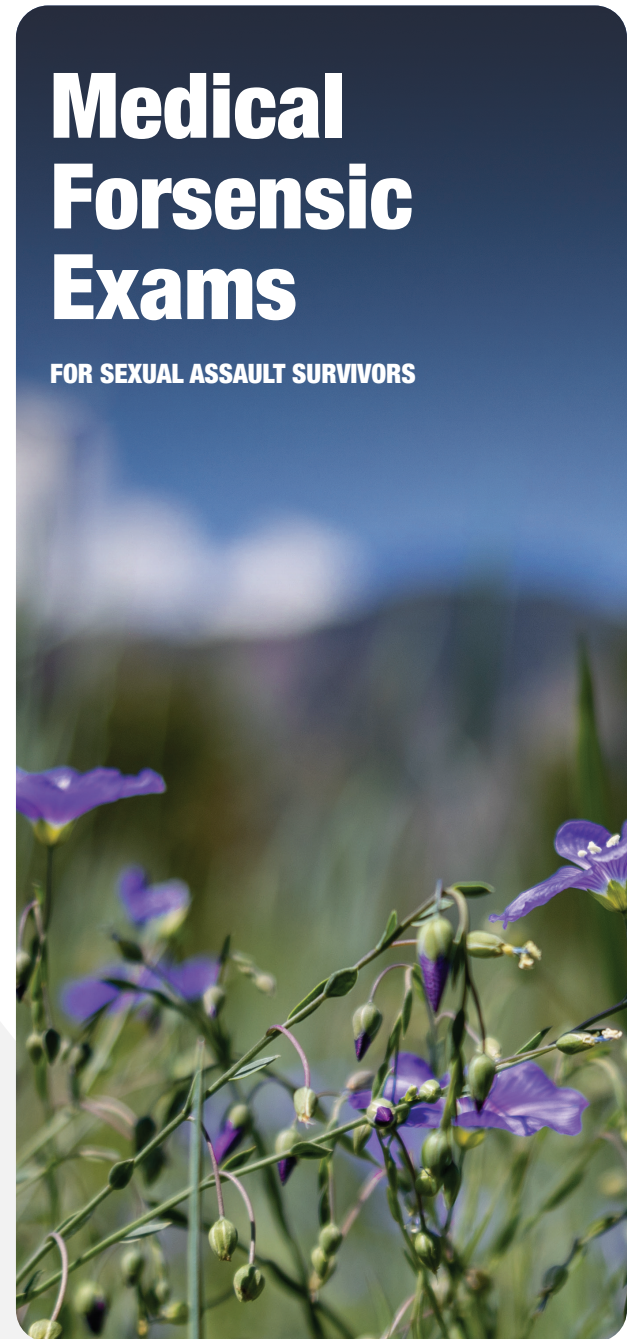
(SPAN) 24/7

303-444-2424

safehousealliance.org

Medical Forensic Exams

FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS



Office of Victim Assistance
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER



Updated 4/24

Things to know about MFE



01 What is a Medical Forensic Exam (MFE)?

A medical forensic exam, also known as an MFE, is a medical exam completed by a specially trained nurse, either a Forensic Nurse Examiner (FNE) or Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE). These nurses are trained to collect evidence and care for recent victims/survivors of sexual assault. The evidence collected by the nurse is often referred to as a “kit”.

02 Who can get an MFE?

All people affected by sexual assault can receive an exam.

03 When should an exam be done?

An exam should be completed as soon as possible after an incident of sexual assault. For more information on when an exam should be completed, contact the hospitals listed on the back of this pamphlet, your law enforcement advocate, or your confidential community advocate.

04 What happens to my kit after the exam is done?

The kit is stored at the law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction where the crime occurred. How you decide to report and your consent to have the kit tested will determine if it is sent for testing.

What happens at an MFE?

The MFE consists of various steps. You can choose to participate in part of the exam, or all of the exam - the nurse will explain each step and always give you the option.

An MFE includes:

- A nurse taking a history of the assault for diagnostic & treatment purposes
- A complete head to toe examination and detailed genital exam (if applicable)
- Evidence collection and wound documentation (if applicable)
- Education about health and wellness following the crime
- Providing resources and referrals for follow up care and counseling, including safety planning
- Assistance with reporting to police if requested

Additional services that may be necessary:

- Preventative medications related to pregnancy and/or STIs (sexually transmitted infections) if applicable
- Follow-up care after the MFE
- Emergency care

How is the MFE paid for?



If law enforcement is involved and the victim is participating in a case, the law enforcement agency will pay for the MFE. If law enforcement is not involved, the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice funds will pay for the MFE.

Depending on how/when the incident was reported, different options may be available to cover the costs of the additional services. These options may include, but are not limited to, the Crime Victim Compensation Program, Colorado Division of Criminal Justice funds, and other local financial assistance programs.

For more information on financial assistance, contact your law enforcement or community-based advocate.

For CU Boulder affiliates, the Office of Victim Assistance (OVA) can be a resource to explore these other options.

Moving Away from the Term “Rape Kit”

While “rape kit” is often heard in the media and on T.V., this term does not fully encompass the spectrum of care given at a MFE. The term may discourage individuals who do not identify with the term “rape” from seeking medical care after an act of sexual assault.