

Answers to frequently asked questions about the new SANE program serving survivors of sexual assault in East Central Indiana.



Q. What is a SANE program?

A. SANE is an acronym for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner—a registered nurse or nurse practitioner who has been specially trained to assist survivors of sexual assault. Besides treating physical injuries, the staff of East Central Indiana’s SANE program performs exams, collects forensic evidence, records victims’ accounts of their assaults, and can testify at legal proceedings.

Q. Where is East Central Indiana’s SANE program?

A. The Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program serves East Central Indiana from inside the Knightstown Health Care Center. The center is located at 224 West Main Street in Knightstown, and may be contacted at (765) 345-5572.

Q. What are the SANE program’s hours?

A. The SANE program is accessible during the Knightstown Health Care Center’s regular business hours, which are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday.

Q. Where can survivors of sexual abuse go when the Knightstown Health Care Center is closed?

A. On weekday evenings and weekends, qualified nurse examiners remain on call 24 hours a day, and may be accessed through Hancock Regional Hospital or Henry Community Health.

Q. When is the SANE program not available?

A. SANE program resources are always available. Whether offered through the Knightstown Health Care Center, or through Hancock Regional Hospital or Henry Community Health, SANE resources are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Q. How much does a SANE exam cost?

A. SANE examinations are performed free of charge.

Q. How private is a SANE exam?

A. All SANE program services remain completely confidential at all times—whether patients wish to report a crime, or not.

Q. Does the SANE program offer protection for patients?

A. Security at the SANE program is strengthened through law enforcement officials, who regularly patrol the Knightstown Health Care Center.

Q. Does the SANE program provide counseling?

A. The SANE program supports survivors’ emotional needs by connecting them with counseling, crisis intervention, and other community services.

Q. Who operates the SANE program?

A. The SANE program is operated by Hancock Health, through a partnership between Hancock Health, Henry Community Health, Rush Memorial Hospital, and the prosecutors’ offices of Hancock and Henry counties.

Q. How can I learn more about the SANE program?

A. Call (765) 345-5572 and ask to speak to a SANE program representative.

Q. How soon after sexual abuse should a SANE exam be performed?

A. SANE exams for cases involving anal penetration should be performed within 72 hours. SANE exams for all other cases should be performed within 92 hours.

Q. What happens during a SANE exam?

A. SANE personnel perform a thorough physical exam, which includes the acquisition of DNA and other legal evidence through swabbing. Each patient's story is documented, and forensic photography may be performed. Relevant medications are recommended, and follow-up examinations are arranged.

Q. Are cases of sexual abuse reported to law enforcement?

A. The decision of reporting a case to police is up to the survivor. If a case is reported to police, kits are sent to the state crime laboratory for processing.

Q. What happens to the evidence for cases not reported to police?

A. If patients over 18 years old choose not to report their assault, evidence kits are kept for six months and then destroyed. Evidence kits for patients under 18 are kept for 16 years.

Q. What happens if a patient waits to report a case of sexual abuse to police?

A. If a victim decides to report an assault after the SANE exam—but while the kit is still being held by police—the kit can be processed according to a specific case number that was assigned during the exam.

The SANE program is a partnership between:

