



**Information for sexual assault survivors
at a health care facility that is not a SAFE-ready facility**

What is a SAFE-ready facility?

- "SAFE-ready facility" means a health care facility designated as a sexual assault forensic exam-ready facility.
- A SAFE-ready facility uses a certified sexual assault nurse examiner or a physician with specialized training to conduct a forensic medical examination of a sexual assault survivor, or uses telemedicine to consult with a system of sexual assault forensic examiners, regardless of whether a report to law enforcement is made.
- A forensic medical examination is a procedure to assess a victim's health care needs relating to sexual assault and to collect any evidence for possible use in a law enforcement investigation and prosecution.

What are the benefits of a forensic medical examination?

The individual conducting the exam has been specially trained to provide compassionate, sensitive and comprehensive care to sexual assault survivors and is prepared to testify in court proceedings if necessary. This individual has up-to-date information on all aspects of care, is also familiar with the legal system, and can provide accurate information about a survivor's options and what happens if the survivor decides to report the sexual assault.¹

This facility is not a SAFE-ready facility. The nearest SAFE ready facility is:

NAME: CHI St. Lukes Sugar Land Hospital

ADDRESS: 1317 Lake Point Pkwy, Sugar Land, TX 77478

¹A *Guide for Survivors of Sexual Assault*, Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, Austin TX, available at <https://texaslawhelp.org/article/guide-survivors-sexual-assault>.

Texas law requires health care facilities give survivors of sexual assault this information form and notify them of their right to choose to have an exam at this facility or to be transferred to another facility.

As a survivor of sexual assault, you have the right to receive a forensic medical examination at this hospital emergency room if you are requesting the examination not later than 96 hours after the assault.

A report to law enforcement is not required, but if you make a report, law enforcement must first authorize the forensic medical examination.

You may call 1-800-656-HOPE (4673) to be connected to a rape crisis center for free and confidential assistance.

The website for the Health and Human Services Commission's list of SAFE-ready facilities: <http://dshs.texas.gov/facilities/sexual-assault-information.aspx>.

How to Submit a Complaint against a Regulated Health Facility

Complaints may be emailed, faxed, mailed, or delivered by phone via the complaint hotline: <http://dshs.texas.gov/facilities/complaints.aspx>

Email: hfc.complaints@hhsc.state.tx.us

Fax: (512) 834-6653

Complaint hotline: (888) 973-0022

Mailing address:

Health Facility Compliance Group (MC 1979)
Texas Health and Human Services Commission
P.O. Box 149347
Austin, TX 78714-9347

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