

Medical Forensic Exam Resource Guide

The content for this guide has been provided by the **HonorHealth Forensic Nurse Examiner Program**. HonorHealth is the provider for Medical Forensic Exams in Maricopa County. While most of the information regarding the exam is applicable to all regardless of where they experienced violence, the contact information in this resource guide is specific to Maricopa County. The **Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence** provides a list of **medical forensic exam facilities** in Arizona. If you are outside of Arizona, the **Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)** provides a **tool** to identify sexual assault service providers in your state.

What is a medical forensic exam?

Medical forensic exams address health and safety issues and are used to collect any potential evidence from an assault. You have the right to receive an exam **within five days** of your assault.*

Exam location

Exams are usually done in an **advocacy center** in a private, quiet location. There are several advocacy centers located throughout Maricopa County. You can request to have an exam at a center convenient for you. If you have a medical emergency and need to go to the hospital, your exam may be performed by a forensic nurse in the hospital. There is no cost for this exam. (States and counties vary in where the exam will be done.) Medical forensic exams are not available at ASU Health Services.

What should I do if I want a medical forensic exam?

If you want to file a police report about your assault, please call 9-1-1 and the police will contact a forensic nurse to help you schedule an exam. If the assault occurred on campus, **ASU Police** will respond and take your report. You can also call the non-emergency line **480-965-3456**.

You will also be connected with a confidential **Victim Advocate** who can provide more information on the reporting and support options. If the assault took place off campus, you can connect with local law enforcement for the city you were in.

What if I do not want to call the police?

If you do not want to file a police report, call the **HonorHealth Forensic Nursing Department** at **480-312-6339** (available 24/7) and enter a call back number. A nurse will call you back soon after. You do not need to file a report to receive medical care.

Is there anything I need to do to prepare for the exam?

Please avoid:

- Showering
- Using the bathroom
- Eating and drinking
- Smoking

Even if you did any of the above activities, **you can still have an exam**. Also, make sure you bring the clothing worn during your assault.

What can I expect during the exam?

A forensic nurse will ask about your medical history and details of your assault, which will help them discuss exam and treatment options with you. You can still have an exam even if you do not remember the details of your assault. Someone will work with you and connect you to the resources that you need.

Physical exam

Your nurse will do a physical exam, which is more detailed than a routine exam from your doctor. They will document and photograph any injuries you have. If you have been sexually assaulted, your nurse may do a pelvic or genital exam.

Evidence collection

Your nurse will collect evidence during the physical exam, including:

- Clothing and underwear worn during the assault
- Blood
- Urine
- Swabs from your body

* Amount of time may vary by state and county.

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Treatment

Your nurse will talk to you about medications to prevent sexually transmitted infections/diseases (STIs/STDs) and pregnancy.

You will not be tested for STIs/STDs during your exam.

Follow-up care can be done at **ASU Health Services**, in a Community Health clinic, or at your Primary Care physician's office.

What can I expect after the exam?

After your exam, your nurse will give you information about medical care, counseling, safety planning and anything else you need for your physical and mental health, and safety.

ASU Counseling is available for ASU immersion students and **360 Life Services** is available for ASU Online students.

Evidence and kit

After your exam, your nurse will prepare and store your kit in a secure location. If you have filed a police report, your nurse will work with the police to have your kit sent to the crime lab. Your exam report will be used for the investigation. Someone from the police department will follow up with you about the results of your kit. If you choose not to file a police report, your evidence will not be sent to the police. It will be stored for **at least 90 days** in case you decide to file a police report later.*

For more information about the HonorHealth Forensic Nurse Examiner Program, call **480-312-6340**, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday-Friday. To get a medical forensic exam without filing a police report, call **480-312-6339**, 24/7.

* Amount of time may vary by state and county.

There is no cost for this exam.

Remember: You are in control of the exam. You have the right to say “Yes” or “No” at any point.

Your safety and comfort are important, and your nurse wants to help you feel as safe and comfortable as possible during your exam.

Find resources and learn more at sexualviolenceprevention.asu.edu.