

What is the SAFE Center?

We're Here to Help

The SAFE center was designed to provide a private, comforting and safe place for survivors and their loved ones. Comforts include:

- A family and friends room where anyone who is accompanying a survivor can wait comfortably
- The interview room where the investigator, survivor and friend or advocate can conduct an interview
- The Forensic Exam room where a SANE Nurse conducts a Sexual Assault Nurse Exam if the survivor so chooses
- Full shower, changes of clothes and hygiene items if necessary
- Snacks, blankets, cable and Wi-Fi as well as other items as needed

All services are accessed by calling the Refuge House 24 hour crisis hotline. The hotline is staffed by real people who offer a judgment free zone and keep your concerns completely confidential.

Refuge House

P.O. Box 201910
Tallahassee, FL 32316
www.refugehouse.com

Phone: 850-922-6062
Fax: 850-413-0395

The mission of Refuge House is to provide direct services to battered women, their children, and sexual assault survivors as well as to work to eliminate the conditions in society that allow such violence to continue.

Refuge House provides all program services on an equal basis. Refuge House does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sexual preference, religion, national origin, sex, age or disability.



Refuge House
Stop the Violence!

SAFE CENTER

*Sexual Assault Forensic Exam
Center*

24 Hour Crisis Hotline
850-681-2111
800-500-1119

What is a Forensic Exam?

A Forensic exam collects evidence of a sexual assault for law enforcement to utilize in prosecution. It is performed by a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, who is specially trained to collect the evidence.

A survivor does NOT need to report to law enforcement to receive a forensic exam (House Bill 989).

SANE Program

SANE Stands for Sexual Assault Nurse Exam. When a victim of sexual assault calls the hotline, presents themselves at the hospital or contacts the police to report the crime, law enforcement or medical staff contact the Refuge House hotline to activate SANE program. The hotline advocate then contacts the on-call SANE Advocate for dispatch. The SANE Advocate will go to the hospital or SAFE Center to provide advocacy and accompaniment for the survivor and their needs.

What does a SANE Advocate Do?

- Provide supportive and confidential crisis-counseling for survivors and their loved ones
- Educate survivors and their loved ones on reporting, forensic exams and other related topics
- Advocate on behalf of a survivor while working with Law Enforcement and Medical Staff, ensuring informed and survivor-centered decisions
- Provide information to survivors and their loved ones on questions and provides resources in the community

FAQ

Q: Does it cost any money to use the center?

A: No. This center is free of charge for any person who wants a forensic exam.

Q: Do I have to report to law enforcement to get a forensic exam?

A: No. You are not required to report to law enforcement to receive a forensic exam,

Q: Do you see children at the SAFE Center?

A: The SANE program and the SAFE center are for persons 18 and older. Minors are referred to Children's Medical Services.

Q: How can I access the SAFE Center?

A: Contact the Refuge House 24 hour crisis hotline. The hotline advocate will then walk you through the SANE process.

Q: Can my friend or family member come with me?

A: Absolutely. Friends and family are welcome to come to the SAFE center for support and services as well.

Q: How long do I have to get a forensic exam?

A: A person has 120 hours from the time of the assault to collect forensic evidence. However, you can still receive services from Refuge House if it is past that time.

Q: Where is the SAFE center located?

A: The SAFE center is located at 1221 Hodges Drive Tallahassee, FL 32303

What Happens Next?

Once the possible forensic exam and/or reporting is completed, the SANE Advocate will answer any further questions you may have. The Sexual Violence Services Coordinator will contact you after 48 hours to provide further information on medical follow up, free and confidential counseling services, Victim's Compensation and other needs you may have.

All survivors and/or loved ones are able to receive free and confidential counseling services by contacting the Refuge House 24 hour crisis hotline.

How to Help

- Donate to the SAFE Center! Items in need include basic hygiene products (travel size), new bras, new underwear and cleaning products.
- Volunteer as a SANE Advocate! We are always in need and you create your schedule. Contact 850-922-6062 for more information.
- Be supportive. If you know someone who has been assaulted, let them know that you believe them and that it was not their fault. Help them contact Refuge House if they so choose.
- Model the importance of healthy relationships of all kinds and react when someone crosses that line – remember to stay safe in doing so.
- Learn more about the dynamics of power-based violence by calling the Refuge House 24 hour crisis hotline for free community education.