

# MEDICAL AND EVIDENTIARY EXAM

## A GUIDE FOR ADVOCATES

- Does the victim understand the advocate's role and purpose?
- Does the victim understand the process of the evidentiary exam and the purpose?
- Does the victim understand the importance of speaking honestly with the medical staff about the complete details of the assault?
- Does the victim know approximately how long the process will take?
- Does the victim understand that the timeline for hearing the results of tests and that the hospital only collects the evidence and does not usually process it?
- Does the victim know that the county will pay for some or all of the exam and how payment will be arranged?
- Does the victim know that she/he can stop the exam at any time or refuse parts of the exam? Does the victim understand the implications of that decision?
- Does the victim know that the BCA kit will not be processed if or until the victim decides to report the assault to the police?
- Does the victim know how long the BCA kit will be held if she/he is unsure of reporting the assault to the police?
- Is the victim aware of whether or not someone will inform her/him prior to destroying the kit?
- Does the victim want the advocate to talk with family/friends who may be in the waiting room and update them on the process and the victim's condition?
- Does the victim understand that her/his clothing may be kept as evidence?
- Does the hospital have clothing to give the victim to wear home?
- Does the victim understand that any STD/STI testing done at the hospital is only to establish a baseline – to determine if the victim already had an STD/STI prior to the assault?
- Is the victim aware that she/he can have STD/STI baseline testing done at another facility if she/he doesn't want the results to be part of the evidentiary exam report?
- Does the victim understand the need for follow-up medical exam as directed by the ER personnel?
- Does the victim understand what the emergency contraceptive is and how it works?
- Does the victim need assistance in filling any prescriptions?
- Does the victim need help arranging transportation after the exam?
- Does the victim know how to apply for an HRO or OFP if necessary?

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