



SAFE TEAM

SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES



WE'RE HERE TO HELP

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HOW WE CAN HELP



Glens Falls Hospital

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT DURING YOUR VISIT AND SAFE SERVICES

You deserve the very best care that Glens Falls Hospital has to offer. Our goal is to make you as comfortable as possible while providing you with expert care from a specialized team.

What is SAFE?

SAFE stands for Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner. Our team at Glens Falls Hospital is made up of Registered Nurses who hold this certification.

GLENS FALLS HOSPITAL ENSURES THAT THE CHOICE IS YOURS

Our Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) team is here for you. Our goal is to help answer your questions, support your decisions, and provide you with expert care.

- The exam is your choice
- Medications are your choice
- Police involvement is your choice
- Who will pay for your treatment?

You have choices here too. You may choose to use your own insurance or choose to have New York State Crime Victims Assistance Program cover the cost of your exam. Your forensic examiner will provide you with specific details regarding the Crime Victims Program.

YOU WILL MEET:

A forensic examiner is a nurse with specialized training and certification that can provide comprehensive, compassionate care to victims of sexual assault. The forensic examiner has the ability to testify as an expert witness in the court of law if needed.

A medical provider is a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner who will work closely with your forensic examiner to make sure all your healthcare needs are addressed.

A victim advocate is a person trained to support patients who have been sexually assaulted. The advocate can give you information about counseling and can suggest resources to help you pay for medications, medical care, and loss of property. They will also provide you with emotional support. Services can be provided during the exam and extend after the exam with your permission. Services are confidential and free of charge.

POLICE INVOLVEMENT IS YOUR CHOICE

If you have already reported the crime to the police or you would like to, and you want your evidence collected during your exam turned over for processing, please tell your examiner. If you choose not to report to the police you can still have evidence collected and held at Glens Falls Hospital. This allows you to make the decision later whether or not to file a report.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT DURING YOUR VISIT AND SAFE SERVICES

Step 1: Triage

A triage nurse will ask you basic questions, obtain vital signs, and take your medical history before determining whether a forensic exam is required.

Step 2: Medical Screening

You will be placed in a private room to be evaluated by a medical provider.

Step 3: Forensic Exam (approx. 3-4 hours)

A trained forensic examiner will explain all aspects of your physical exam and will obtain your permission before completing each step, including examination of the genital area. You have the option to consent to all or only part of the exam. A complete head to toe exam will be performed addressing all your healthcare needs. The examiner will ask questions about what occurred and will collect evidence from your body using cotton swabs. Urine and blood samples may be requested for treatment and/or evidence. With your permission, photos may be taken of your injuries. The examiner will discuss available medications to prevent HIV, pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases. The appropriate medications will be offered to you.

Step 4: Discharge

Your examiner will create a safe discharge plan with you and provide you with additional community resources and contact information.