

SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIM ADVOCACY SERVICES

The Sexual Assault Victim Advocacy Program at Safe Avenues is operated by staff and volunteers who have been trained to help victims/survivors cope with a wide range of needs.

24-HOUR CRISIS LINE

There is a crisis line available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Advocates are trained to listen, offer information, and make referrals to other agencies when necessary.

ADVOCACY SERVICES

All advocacy services provided by Safe Avenues are free and confidential.

Advocates offer support for victims/survivors, family members, and friends who have been affected by sexual violence. Advocates will also be available to provide assistance and support to the victim/survivor as a case goes through the criminal or civil court systems.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Safe Avenues

Toll-Free (800) 792.4210
320.262.3829
www.willmarshelter.com

Rice Memorial Hospital

320.235.4543

Kandiyohi County Attorney's Office

320.231.2440

Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Office

320.235.1260

Willmar Police Department

320.235.2244



This project was supported by
Grant No. 2012-WF-AX-005 awarded
by the Office on Violence Against Women.

The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in the publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Department of Justice.



Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program

**Kandiyohi County's
Response to Sexual Violence**

SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINER Program

The Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program in Kandiyohi County is a hospital based medical and forensic response to victims of sexual assault. It is a collaborative project between Safe Avenues, Rice Memorial Hospital, Willmar Police Department, the Kandiyohi County Sheriff's and the Kandiyohi County Attorney's Office. The SANE Program began in Kandiyohi County in 2013 in an effort to ensure the highest level of compassion and care for victims of sexual violence.

With funding assistance, professionals within each of the collaborating agencies received special training. As a result of this comprehensive approach, when a sexual assault is reported to law enforcement, there is a better chance of successful prosecution.

SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINERS

SANEs are registered nurses that understand the dynamics of sexual assault and are specially trained in collection of forensic evidence, medical interviewing, documentation and expert witness testimony. They provide comprehensive and compassionate forensic medical exams for sexual assault victims. These exams are essential to the successful investigation and prosecution of sexual assault in our community.

SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIM ADVOCATES

SANE's work as a team with sexual assault advocates to ensure that victims are treated in a sensitive, caring and professional manner. Advocates are available to provide support throughout the exam, answer questions about what happens next, and provide resources and options to victims.

EVIDENTIARY EXAMS AT RICE HOSPITAL

- The best evidence collection occurs as soon as possible after an assault.
- If it has been more than five days since the assault, contact Safe Avenues at 320.262.3829 for support and options.
- To have an evidentiary exam at Rice Memorial Hospital, victims must be 13 years of age or older. Younger victims are referred to other medical facilities for care.
- Evidentiary exams are completed at no cost to the victim. Exams are paid by the county where the assault took place.
- For the best possibility of evidence collection, victims should not shower, bathe, douche, change clothes, brush their teeth, or urinate after the assault.
- The victim chooses whether or not to report a sexual assault to law enforcement. An advocate can help.