

VOTE YES ON SB 1574

ENSURE PROPER MEDICAL FORENSIC CARE FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EVIDENCE (SAFE) KIT FIX

WHAT IT DOES



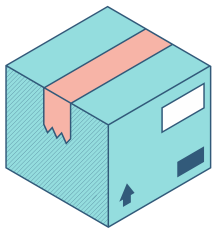
SB1574-1 modifies the definition of a Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Kit (SAFE Kit) to ensure a copy of the Medical Forensic Examination Form, including the survivor's sexual assault history, injury documentation, and evidence collection documentation, is included in the SAFE Kit prior to transferring it to law enforcement, per ORS 181A.325, for storage and/or processing.

WHY THIS FIX?



Survivors of sexual assault who seek care from a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) or Sexual Assault Examiner (SAE) typically assume that any evidence collected and written documentation completed by the SANE/SAE, is stored in the SAFE Kit following the medical-forensic exam. **A current logistical flaw may prevent some examiners from including a copy of the medical forensic examination form in the SAFE Kit**, which poses evidentiary issues if a case moves forward for trial.

Modifying the definition of the SAFE Kit ensures that the medical forensic examination form is stored in the kit for 60 years. Otherwise, these medical records are only maintained for 7-10 years from the last date of service.



WILL THIS CHANGE ANONYMOUS KITS?

No. SB1574-1 makes a simple change to address a logistical flaw in the evidence collection process. Survivors of sexual assault can still make an anonymous report. This fix will ensure forensic evidence and written documentation is preserved if and when a survivor decides to make a report to law enforcement.

WHAT ABOUT PRIVACY AND CONSENT?



Survivors of sexual assault determine what parts of the medical-forensic exam they consent to, and discuss this with the SANE/SAE before and during the exam. Survivors similarly determine what is released to law enforcement. A sample consent and release of information is available for use on our website at <https://oregonsatf.org/resources/for-sanes/>



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