

Helpful numbers:

Freeman Health System SANE Program

417.347.SANE (7263)

Lafayette House

417.782.1772

Ozark Center Crisis Services

417.347.7720 or 800.247.0661

Children's Center

417.623.2292

Jasper County Sheriff's Office

417.624.1601

Joplin Police Department

417.623.3131

Neosho Police Department

417.451.8000

Newton County Sheriff's Office

417.623.2282 or 417.451.8300

National Sexual Assault Hotline & Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Hotline

800.656.HOPE (4673)



Lafayette House is a private, not-for-profit organization serving women, children and their families in southwest Missouri. Lafayette House offers confidential services to victims of sexual assault, rape and domestic violence. These services include emergency room advocacy, court advocacy, individual or group counseling, social services, transportation and even safe shelter when needed. If you would like information about our programs, please call 782-1772 or 800-416-1772. Help is available 24 hours a day, and we offer locations in Joplin, Neosho and McDonald County.

Funding provided by



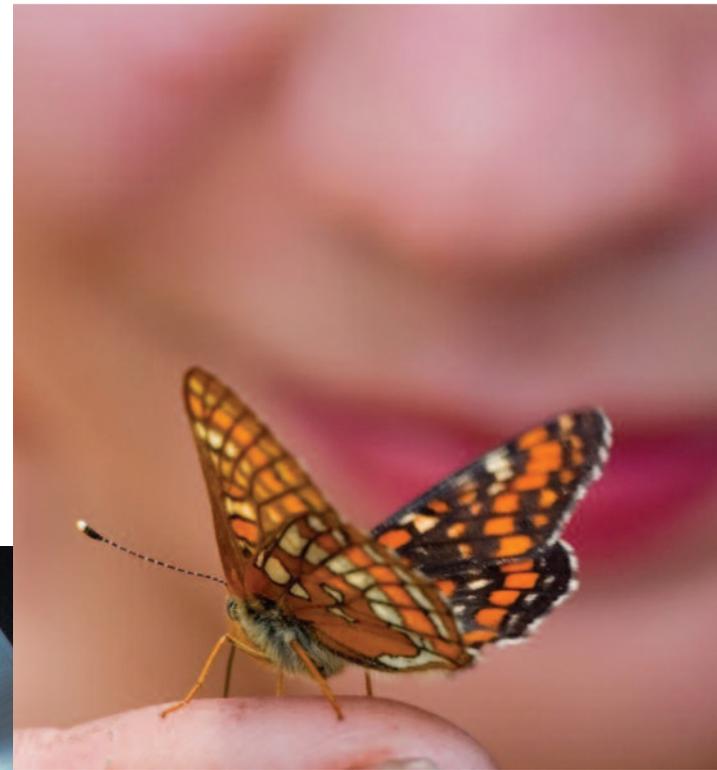
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417.347.SANE (7263)

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SANE
PROGRAM
SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINER

Every two minutes, somewhere in America, someone is sexually assaulted.

Doctors and nurses at Freeman Health System offer compassionate and comprehensive care to victims of sexual assault at the Emergency Room in Joplin through the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program. The Freeman SANE program also provides education to local communities on sexual violence awareness, prevention, and available services.

The SANE program works with community agencies to ensure the safety of the victim, to provide medical care to the victim, and to offer the choice to have evidence of the sexual assault collected. Victims must be age 18 or over and visit Freeman West Emergency Room in Joplin within five days of the assault. Specially trained nurses, called Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, work with victims in their time of need by providing care, compassion, and treatment.

What is sexual assault?

Rape or sexual assault is forced or unwanted sex or sexual contact. Sexual assault happens to both women and men.

What should I do if I am sexually assaulted?

1. Find a safe place—anywhere away from the attacker. Ask a trusted friend to stay with you for moral support.
2. Know that what happened was not your fault and now you should do what is best for you.
3. Report the assault by calling 911 or your local law enforcement agency.

4. To preserve evidence of the attack—don't change clothes, bathe, or brush your teeth.
5. Write down all the details you can remember about the assault and the attacker.
6. Seek medical attention. Even if you know you will never report the assault or have no physical injuries, it is important to determine the risks of infections and pregnancy.
7. Recognize that healing from sexual assault takes time. Don't rush the healing process.
8. Even if the assault happened years ago, know that it's never too late to call for help.

Sexual assault victims receive compassionate care and support at Freeman. Emergency Room staff will not contact law enforcement about the sexual assault unless you ask them. Attacks on children, people over age 60, people who are disabled or live in a nursing home, and gun shot wounds must be reported by law.

What to expect:

- First, an Emergency Room doctor will treat any physical injuries.
- Next, you move into a private exam room to talk with the SANE nurse and a Lafayette House advocate about the help you may need. This includes planning for your safety and the safety of your children.
- If you choose, the SANE nurse and Lafayette House advocate will help you report the crime. Even if you do not want to report the assault to law enforcement or press charges, you can still have a free evidence collection exam.
- Also, if you choose, a SANE nurse will gather evidence of the sexual assault. This may include having pictures taken; clothing collected; and providing hair, blood, urine, or other samples. The SANE nurse will make sure the evidence goes to law enforcement or storage, whichever you choose.

- Finally, the SANE nurse will give any needed medications or vaccinations. The SANE nurse also will explain care needed after your exam and other available services to help meet your needs.

Benefits of seeking care at Freeman Health System:

- Immediate transfer to medical treatment room or private waiting area—no long wait in the Emergency Room waiting area.
- Kindness and respect from a nurse dedicated only to your care.
- Lafayette House advocate available for support.
- Availability of counselors.
- Private exam room and special equipment to help sexual assault victims.
- Free evidence collection exam.
- Infection treatment and prevention care.
- Emergency medication to prevent pregnancy.
- Emergency shelter and services through Lafayette House.
- Assistance with getting orders of protection.
- Support and help throughout the legal process if pressing charges.
- Better quality of evidence collected means more prosecutions—attackers go to jail.

Children and teens younger than age 18 who are sexually abused or assaulted are referred to Children's Center for exams. Children's Center, especially equipped to serve the needs of child victims, offers a safe haven for abused children.

The nurses and doctors at Freeman understand the seriousness of sexual crimes, and they will treat you with the sensitivity you deserve. With the SANE program, now more than ever, Freeman helps fight sexual violence in our communities.