

# Medical Forensic Exam Payment Fact Sheet

## Navigating Cross-Jurisdictional Reimbursement

[Federal Law, 34 U.S.Code § 10449 -Rape Exam Payments](#): Ensures all sexual assault survivors can access medical forensic exams (MFEs) without any cost to them. **States and tribal governments are required to incur the full out-of-pocket costs, without requiring insurance reimbursement or law enforcement cooperation.** While some states may have policies that seem to restrict payment for exams of assaults occurring within their borders, the law itself doesn't specify which state is ultimately responsible. However, the law is clear that **survivors cannot be billed for MFE exams, and mandates actions that necessitate coordination and collaboration** between states and healthcare providers, to ensure survivors can access critical healthcare and examination without financial burdens. This factsheet provides guidance and resources needed to understand jurisdictional challenges and payment responsibilities for MFEs.

### Jurisdictional Challenges

Responsibility of cost

Variations in state laws and legislation

Coordination of cross-jurisdictional multidisciplinary teams

Continuity of survivor support and access to support services

### Solution:

### Collaboration

Refer back to 34 U.S.C.10449 – Rape Exam Payments

### Action-Steps to Solutions:

- Know federal, state, and local legislations specific to payment for MFE
- Build a network of resources through a strong multidisciplinary team
- Enhance communication and collaboration in the sexual assault response
- Ensure facility/program billing policies also address cross-jurisdictional reimbursement
- Work closely with key interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary team member (network of resources)
  - SANE nurses/Healthcare clinicians
  - Facility and program billing departments
  - State payors
  - Crime victim compensation administrators
  - STOP/SASP Administrators
  - Law enforcement
  - Community and legal advocates
  - State SA/DV response teams and coalitions.

### Exam Payment Resources

- [State Billing/Payment Summary](#)
- [State Protocols](#)
- [Sample Policy & Procedure Manual for Use](#)
- [STOP/SASP State Administrators Contact List](#)

[safeta.org/payment](https://safeta.org/payment)

### REFERENCES:

- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office on Violence Against Women. (2024, Sept). [A National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations Adult/Adolescent \(3rd ed.\)](#). Washington, DC: DOJ. <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ovw/241903.pdf>
- National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice (2017). *National Best Practices for Sexual Assault Kits: A Multidisciplinary Approach*. <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/250384.pdf>
- [34 U.S.C. § 10449 \(2024\)](#).

This project was supported by Grant No. 15JOWW-22-GK-04021-STOP awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.