WHAT IS FORENSIC NURSING?
Forensic nursing is the specialty practice of nursing at the intersection of the healthcare system and the legal system.

WHAT DOES A FORENSIC NURSE (FN) DO?
The FN cares for and treats individuals, families, and communities that experience intentional and unintentional injury.

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ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION
The International Association of Forensic Nurses is a professional specialty organization comprised of FNs and other forensic professionals worldwide.

Our mission is to provide leadership in forensic nursing practice by developing, promoting, and disseminating information internationally about forensic nursing science.

The Association establishes the guidelines for SANE education and offers board certification for SANES who care for adults, adolescents, and children.

RESOURCES
ForensicNurses.org
Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Technical Assistance — safeta.org
Sexual Assault—Forensic and Clinical Management Virtual Practicum DVD-ROM — ForensicNurses.org

[Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners: VIOLENCE IS A HEALTHCARE ISSUE]

Responding to the Trauma of Sexual Assault and Abuse

Sexual assault remains one of the most underreported crimes in the United States. Yet, its silent victims often seek care in hospital emergency departments and clinics.

A Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) is a registered nurse who has completed special education and clinical preparation to provide expert healthcare services and forensic care to a patient who has experienced sexual assault.

SANES are skilled in taking patient histories, assessing and treating trauma response and injury, collecting and managing evidence, providing the emotional and social support needed during a post-trauma evaluation and examination, documenting injury, and providing testimony required to compel such cases through the legal system.

The US Department of Justice’s National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations (2013) recommends that examiners possess these skills and achieve professional certification.

SANEs work collaboratively with other community responders, including those in advocacy, law enforcement, and the legal system.

By improving patient care and increasing the potential for successful prosecution, SANEs profoundly impact the patients and communities they serve.