



## **Sexual Assault Resources**

If you are in immediate danger, call 911. If you are not in immediate danger, Huntsville Memorial Hospital's Emergency Department serves men, women and children who have experienced or, believe to be victims of dating violence, sexual violence, sexual assault and child abuse in Walker and surrounding counties.

For additional support call the **Rape Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN) at 800-656-HOPE (4673)**.

Anyone, of any sex, race, and ability, gender, gender identity, and gender expression can experience sexual assault. If you've been sexually assaulted – even if you are not sure – **you can contact Huntsville Memorial Hospital's Forensic Nursing program by calling 1-888-801-5565 and asking to speak to the SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) on-call**. A dedicated SANE nurse will return your call within 30 minutes with free, confidential help day or night.

If you were sexually assaulted less than 122 hours (5 days) ago, there is still a chance to have a forensic exam to collect DNA evidence. Even if the window for a forensic exam has passed, medical attention may still be an important step if you are experiencing bleeding, physical discomfort or any other abnormal symptoms. Although they cannot collect forensic evidence, you can still file a police report if you so desire, though individuals do not have to file a police report to have an exam administered.

If a survivor chooses to go to the hospital for a forensic exam, they have the right to have state-certified advocate accompaniment. Several Walker county entities provide advocacy to sexual assault and domestic violence victims, and our SANE nurses can help with the referral process to an appropriate counseling service.

An advocate can be dispatched from the SAAFE House to meet the victim at the Emergency Department. The advocate can stay the duration of the exam and provide a number of services to both the survivor and their friends and family who might have accompanied them.

## **Reporting to Police**

A SANE nurse can help you decide who to report the crime to, if you choose to do so. Or, you can call the appropriate Agency:

University Police Department: (936)-294-1000 (Emergency) or (936)-294-1800 (Non-Emergency)

Huntsville Police Department: (936) 435-8001 (Non-Emergency Dispatch)

Walker County Sherriff's Office: (936) 435-2400

**Things to remember if you decide to have a SANE exam:**

- Do not shower, bathe, wipe/wash yourself, or douche
- Do not eat, drink or smoke cigarettes
- Do not brush your teeth or rinse your mouth
- Do not change your clothing. If you have already changed your clothing, bring the clothes with you in a paper bag that were worn during the assault
- Bring a change of clothing with you

If you have already done one or all of the above it will not prohibit you from having a SANE exam.