

Who we are

The Victoria Sexual Assault Clinic is an initiative of the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre and Island Health Forensic Nurse Program. The Clinic provides a confidential, accessible and welcoming space for recent survivors of sexual assault to receive the following services:

- Medical exams
- Forensic exams
- Options for reporting to police
- Crisis support
- Connections to community resources

Who can access the Clinic?

The Clinic is available to survivors of sexual assault of all genders, 13 years and older who have experienced sexual assault in the last week.

How to access the Clinic?

The Clinic is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Contact the **Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888**. You will be connected with a support worker to discuss options including accessing the Clinic.

The Sexual Assault Response Team also responds to survivors at the Victoria General Hospital.

Connect with the Clinic:
Vancouver Island Crisis Line
1-888-494-3888

The Survivor's Choice

The medical and/or forensic services the survivor chooses is entirely their decision.

**The survivor can choose:
what parts of the exam they are comfortable with, to stop the exam at any point, or to change their mind.**

Medical Services:

Recent survivors of sexual assault, who do not require emergency medical care at a hospital, have access to the following from a specially trained Forensic Nurse Examiner (FNE) at the Clinic:

Medication - for common sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and pregnancy prevention.

Medical exam - The FNE will examine the survivor to check for any injuries and ensure that the survivor is medically okay.

Forensic Exam - Forensic exams include the same medical treatment as a medical exam, but includes the collection of physical evidence that can be used as part of a police investigation.

Survivors have the option to store the evidence in a freezer for up to a year if they are unsure if they would like to report to police.

Please note: If a survivor has any urgent injuries, we encourage them to go directly to the hospital

Common Questions:

Should a survivor access medical care after a sexual assault? Survivors are encouraged to receive some sort of medical attention. Deciding which medical service is best is an individual decision and can only be made by the survivor.

Can I bring someone with me? Yes. Survivors have the option to bring friends, partners or family members with them to the Clinic for support.

What is the cost of the Clinic? Money will never be a barrier to anyone trying to access services at the Clinic. Survivors are encouraged to bring their BC Services card, but if they do not have one available, they can connect with the Clinic Support Worker to go over their options.

How can I get there? What if I do not drive? We can provide a cab service for survivors to access the Clinic.

How long will this process take? The length a survivor could spend at the Clinic depends on what options the survivor chooses. Typically, someone can expect the process to take between 1.5 to 3 hours in total. This total includes meeting with a support worker, going through options, connecting with follow-up services as well as the medical and/or forensic exam and connecting with police if the survivor chooses.

What a Survivor Can Expect at the Clinic

- To receive comprehensive and respectful care from all members of the Clinic including your Support Worker, Forensic Nurse Examiner, and if you choose* to involve police, the police.
- To receive full information about your options and available supports.
- To have the right and opportunity to ask questions.
- To have your decisions supported regarding your medical care and/or police reporting*.
- To have a Support Worker as well as friends, partners or family members present for support if requested.
- To have an exam room, washroom, hallways and elevator that are accessible for people who use mobility aids.
- To be met with staff and volunteers that are knowledgeable and welcoming to people of all genders including Trans, Two-Spirit and Gender Non-Conforming people.
- To receive continuing care from a medical practitioner.
- To receive support from the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre (or similar service) for ongoing support and resources.
- To have a Clinic that will continually work to reduce barriers and increase accessibility to those most affected by sexualized violence.

***Please note:** If there is a child protection issue, the Clinic may have to involve the Ministry of Children and Families or the police.

Medical and Forensics Exams •
Support • Information •
Options for Reporting to Police •
Counselling • Victim Services •
Resources • **Choice**



Connect with the Victoria Sexual Assault Clinic



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through the
Vancouver Island Crisis Line
1-888-494-3888

The **Victoria Sexual Assault Clinic** (pictured above) is a program of the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre.



Victoria Sexual Assault Clinic

The Victoria Sexual Assault Clinic
can be accessed **24hrs a day,
7 days a week** through the
Vancouver Island Crisis Line
1-888-494-3888

300B-3060 Cedar Hill Rd
Victoria, BC V8T 3J5

Business Line: 250-383-5545
(answered Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)

Email: access@vsac.ca
(Not monitored 24 hours a day)

Website: www.vsac.ca/clinic

Program of the:
**Victoria Sexual
Assault Centre**
healing, education & prevention