



FLORIDA COUNCIL AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Next Steps after the 40 Hour Adult / Adolescent SANE Training: Obtaining Competency as a SANE

Is a RN certified as a SANE after taking the 40 Hour Adult/Adolescent SANE Training?

No, the 40 Hour Adult/Adolescent SANE Training is the first step a RN must take to be eligible to sit for the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) certification examination. After the 40 Hour Adult/Adolescent SANE Training a RN is SANE trained, not SANE certified. Certification by IAFN, demonstrates you have achieved the highest standards of forensic nursing for sexual assault nurse examiners. Once a SANE is certified in adult / adolescent exams, the credential SANE-A may be used.

Do SANE trained RNs have to become certified to conduct medical forensic exams?

In Florida, SANE certification is not required to conduct medical forensic exams.

After the 40 Hour Adult/Adolescent SANE training, will the RN be deemed competent to conduct sexual assault forensic exams and begin to work as a SANE?

The RN will not be deemed competent to perform medical forensic exams. The training provides the foundation for the RN to conduct medical forensic exams with guidance from a preceptor who has experience performing medical forensic exams, such as a SANE-A.

Who determines competency?

The preceptor that the sexual assault nurse examiner has chosen to work with will determine competency. In many cases, this is a supervisor or another medical professional that has experience in the field and is willing to sign off that the SANE is competent. This person must be familiar with the examiner's clinical practice through direct observation, supervision, or peer review. Often the SANE and their preceptor will agree to a number of requirements that must be met before the SANE will be deemed competent.

How does the new SANE obtain competency?

The new SANE will need to identify a preceptor, the ideal preceptor is an RN who has been a SANE for more than a year, conducted numerous medical forensic exams and has gone on to become certified in adult / adolescent sexual assault medical forensic exams (SANE-A). This is the ideal preceptor because he/she is able to work with the new SANE to become competent in the total care (understanding the neurobiology of trauma, working with law enforcement and advocates, head to toe assessment, speculum exam, forensic evidence collection, etc.) of a sexual assault victim. The SANE-A preceptor is also able to attest to the competence of the new SANE by completing an attestation letter of competency.

What if there is not a SANE-A available to precept the new SANE?

There are SANEs who have not sought out certification and are very competent to be a preceptor to a new SANE obtaining experience conducting medical forensic exams.



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How can a new SANE obtain experience doing speculum exams?

The new SANE will need to identify a medical professional (physician, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant or a RN who has done many speculum exams) to assist the SANE in obtaining experience observing and then performing speculum exams.

How is a new SANE deemed competent in performing the medical forensic exam (physical assessment, care of the patient and the collection of evidence)?

This may occur three ways:

1. The new SANE is observed doing the medical forensic exam by an experienced SANE-A in their community and the SANE-A is willing to sign a letter of attestation of competence;
2. the new SANE seeks out an experienced SANE-A from another community to obtain a letter of competency; or
3. the new SANE goes to a competency validation workshop that is advertised through the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) or Florida Council Against Sexual Violence (FCASV) to obtain a letter of competency.