

## Legislation

Pursuant to Section 16-3-1350 South Carolina law which follows the guidance of the federal Violence Against Women Act Statute, victims of assault in the State of South Carolina may request, at no cost to them, a forensic examination for sexual assault, regardless of their involvement with law enforcement. SOVA is the **Sole Reimbursement Provider for forensic examinations in S.C.** Health Care Providers will bill SOVA directly for individual charges for lab work, emergency room fee, physician fees, etc. Any fees beyond the actual collection of any evidence during a forensic examination will be the responsibility of the victim. Should law enforcement be involved, the option of SOVA victim compensation reimbursement becomes available.

### **Payments could be delayed or denied for each protocol type due to the following reasons:**

*This is a partial list*

- Crime did not occur in SC
- “Remit to address” is not on the billing statement
- Providers’ address submitted is not in S.C. Enterprise Information System (SCEIS)
- Victims’ name was not found on the law enforcement report
- Untimely filing of claim (claim received after 180 days from date of service)
- The victim was incarcerated at the time of the crime
- Law enforcement did not order the exam/interview for a victim 17 and younger

For additional information, please go to [www.sova.sc.gov](http://www.sova.sc.gov) and click on Provider tab for the Payment and Reimbursement At A Glance booklet.



**SOVA**

**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**State Office of**  
**Victim Assistance**

Rooted in *justice*  
Guided by *law*  
Propelled by *humanity*

### **If You Have Questions, Call:**

803.734.1900

Victims Only  
1.800.220.5370

[www.sova.sc.gov](http://www.sova.sc.gov)

# SOVA

State Office of Victim Assistance

## **Sexual Assault** **Program**



### **Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence** **Collection Examination**

(Payment Procedure “At A Glance”)

1205 Pendleton Street, Room 401  
Columbia, SC 29201

Main Office Phone: 803.734.1900  
Victims Only, Please: 1.800.220.5370

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## Sexual Assault (ACUTE) Protocol

### Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Collection Examination

*(Evidence collected within 120 hours of the assault - victims 18 and older)*

#### Criteria for Payment

The assault must have occurred in SC.

#### Payment Requirements

- South Carolina Law Enforcement Div. (SLED) approved Sexual Assault Protocol must be followed;
- SOVA Sexual Assault Protocol (SAP) Billing Statement must be completed and submitted;
- SOVA Medical Examination Release Form must be completed and submitted;
- Payment must be requested within 180 days from the date of service.

#### Anonymous Reporting

(Victims 18 and older)  
SLED approved standardized protocol must be followed: When providing law enforcement information, write in "ANONYMOUS" instead of the name of the law enforcement agency. To establish that the crime happened in SC, the incident county and state jurisdiction is required.

## Sexual and Physical Assault (Chronic) Protocol

### Sexual and Physical Assault Forensic Evidence Collection Examination

*(Evidence collected after 72 hours of the assault - victims 17 and younger)*

#### Criteria for Payment

The assault must have occurred in SC.  
The assault was reported to law enforcement.  
Law enforcement ordered the exam.

#### Payment Requirements

- Pages 1 and 2 of the Child Maltreatment Protocol billing statement;
- Authorization and release form located in the Child Maltreatment Protocol;
- Law Enforcement incident Report listing each child as a victim;
- Payment must be requested within 180 days from the date of service.

#### Please Note

Under the Sexual Assault Program, SOVA is the guarantor for forensic evidence collection exams for victims of sexual assault. All reimbursement is from a fee schedule and is considered payment in full. Neither the victim nor their insurance may be billed for the examination. For all medical treatment, as a direct result of physical injuries sustained during the assault, and for the follow-up appointments, a victim compensation application will be required.

## Forensic Interview Evidence Collection Protocol

### Forensic Interview Protocol

*(Interviews ordered only by law enforcement for children 17 and younger or vulnerable adults)*

#### Criteria for Payment

The assault must have occurred in SC.  
The assault was reported to law enforcement.  
Law enforcement ordered the interview.

#### Payment Requirements

- SOVA Billing Statement or Provider invoice;
- SOVA Forensic Interview Release Form;
- SOVA Forensic Interview Report Form;
- Law Enforcement Incident Report listing each child as a victim;
- Payment must be requested within 180 days from the date of service.

#### Standards

The interview must be performed using standards defined by SOVA:

- Interviewer must have a Masters level degree;
- Specialized forensic interview training; and,
- Follows a multidisciplinary model.