

**Forensic Sex Evidence Exam**

This appropriation enables the Judicial Branch Office of Victim Services (OVS) to reimburse hospitals, child advocacy centers (CACs), and multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) for expenses incurred in the performance of sexual assault forensic exams and forensic interviews with adult or child patients who experienced sexual assault. The policy complement to this reimbursement is C.G.S. § 19a-112a(e), which prohibits a survivor from being charged directly or indirectly for a sexual assault forensic examination.

Also, the appropriation enables OVS to operate the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFE) Program, which contains response and training components that together provide patient-centered, trauma-informed health care and standardized forensic evidence collection to individuals presenting with sexual assault.

*Effectiveness:* The reimbursement to hospitals, CACs, and MDTs ensures a survivor does not incur expenses for the performance of an exam for purposes of gathering evidence. The SAFE Program's response component provides a specially trained SAFE contractor in the contracted health care sites at the bedside of sexual assault patients following a highly traumatic experience. The SAFE contractor's presence also relieves impacts on emergency departments, helping health care providers to manage overall service needs. In FY 2025-26, the SAFE Program's Training component is budgeted to train 88 new SAFEs, who will return to their health care site to apply their training to serve sexual assault patients, while providing other training and community outreach.

**Victim Security Account**

This appropriation is used to fund shelter services for victims of human trafficking through a contract with the Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

*Effectiveness:* Although most in amount, \$8,791, the appropriation enables the contractor to provide shelter beds and related services to victims.