



ADVICE BEFORE HAVING A FORENSIC EXAMINATION:

- If possible, it is best if you don't eat, drink, brush your teeth, or shower prior to attending SATU.
- Try to keep any tampons/sanitary protection worn at the time of the assault or directly following the assault.
- Try not to wash clothes or underwear worn at the time of the assault.

Note: A forensic examination can still be carried out even if any of the above have occurred.

WHAT STAFF WILL BE PRESENT IN SATU?

- A Forensic Examiner – this can be a doctor or nurse specialist.
- A member of the Gardaí ONLY if you are reporting the assault
- An Assisting Nurse
- A Rape Crisis Centre Support Worker

HOW TO ACCESS THE SATU SERVICE?

YOU CAN ACCESS OUR FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL SERVICE BY CONTACTING:

MON-FRI 8AM-4.30PM
WWW.SAOLTA.IE/SATU

CALL SATU STAFF DIRECTLY ON:

Office: 091 765751
Mobile: 087 6338118

NURSE SPECIALIST:

Mobile: 087 6805862

URGENT OUT OF HOURS SATU CONTACT THROUGH:

1. Any Garda Station
2. Nursing Administration in Merlin Park Hospital Office: 091 757631

OR ELSE SEEK HELP FROM:

1. Your local out-of-hours GP service
2. WestDOC: 1850 365 000
3. Rape Crisis Centre Helpline: 1800 355 355



INFORMATION LEAFLET

SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED RAPE OR SEXUAL ASSAULT

SEXUAL ASSAULT TREATMENT UNIT (SATU) GALWAY • T: 091 765751

THIS SERVICE IS FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL

THIS LEAFLET WILL HELP YOU UNDERSTAND SATU SERVICES

It will explain what is involved in a forensic clinical examination. Staff in SATU understand the concerns and worries you may have.

They will keep you fully informed and supported if you choose to use the SATU services.



Please phone us to speak confidentially with a member of staff if your question is not answered here, or you want more information.

WHO IS THE SATU SERVICE FOR?

The service is available to male and female patients over 14 years old who have experienced rape or sexual assault.

Patients under 18 years should have a parent or legal guardian present.

If you cannot remember what happened but feel you were sexually assaulted, you can still attend SATU.

THIS IS A FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL SERVICE

WHAT IS A FORENSIC CLINICAL EXAMINATION?

This is a special type of examination which is carried out to collect evidence following a rape or sexual assault.

It needs to be carried out within 7 days of the assault.

It is done by a specially trained doctor or nurse.

The Gardaí take the samples to the Forensic Science Laboratory and all results are given to the Gardaí, not the SATU.

CAN I HAVE FORENSIC SAMPLES TAKEN WITHOUT REPORTING THE ASSAULT TO THE GARDAÍ?

Yes. Forensic samples can still be taken within 7 days and stored in a freezer in SATU for up to one year.



WHAT IF THE ASSAULT OCCURRED MORE THAN 7 DAYS AGO OR I DON'T WANT TO MAKE A COMPLAINT TO GARDAÍ?

In these situations, SATU can still help you by:

- Carrying out a Health Check.
- Linking you with the Rape Crisis Network.



WHAT HAPPENS DURING A HEALTH CHECK?

We offer support and deal with any concerns you may have.

Medications will be provided if required, such as:

- Morning after pill (up to 5 days).
- Antibiotics to minimise the risk of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI).
- Hepatitis B vaccination.

Any injuries are treated and documented.

If the assault occurred more than 2 weeks ago, an STI screen will be carried out on the day.