

Evidence Preservation

If you have been the victim of a sexual assault, it is important that you get medical attention and retain as much evidence as possible. Retaining evidence is important for an investigation if you decide to report the assault to law enforcement or to the university.

A victim should call 911 immediately, ask for Police, and report that a sexual assault just happened. A prompt response in the aftermath of a sexual assault allows for the collection and retention of valuable evidence. If there are other injuries that require immediate medical attention the victim should also ask for an ambulance for transportation to the nearest hospital. Medical attention is crucial for assessing internal injuries, sexually transmitted diseases, and possible pregnancy.

Within 96 hours of the assault, a medical evaluation and rape evidence exam are available through the Sexual Assault Treatment Center: 24/7 Hotline 407-497-6701. If the victim decides to press criminal charges, physical specimens collected soon after the sexual assault will be valuable evidence. However, completing the evidence collection kit does not commit the victim to filing charges. Clothing may be retained by the Sexual Assault Treatment Center. A victim should take a change of clothing including underwear.

If you are unsure about what to do contact UCF Victim Services 24/7 Advocacy and Support at 407-823-1200. They will provide you with the options available to you and support you in your choice. They can provide transportation to the Sexual Assault Treatment Center.

To facilitate evidence collection the victim:

- Should not bathe, shower, or douche.
- Should not eat, drink, or brush their teeth if oral contact has occurred.
- Should not use the bathroom unless absolutely necessary in order to retain evidence of drug facilitation, DNA specimens, or other valuable evidence.
- Should place soiled clothing in a clean paper bag (plastic bags destroy crucial evidence) or leave in place for collection by law enforcement.
- Should preserve bedding or other material on which the assault occurred, if possible.
- Should keep in place any other items that the suspect used or touched for law enforcement to collect.