

What is the Victoria Sexual Assault Clinic?

The Victoria Sexual Assault Clinic is an initiative of the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre and Island Health. The clinic was created to provide a confidential, accessible and welcoming space for recent survivors of sexual assault to receive the following services:

- Medical exams
- Forensic exams
- Options for reporting to police
- Crisis support
- Connections to community resources

Who can access the services of the Victoria Sexual Assault Clinic?

The clinic is available to recent survivors of sexual assault of all genders, 13 years and older.

How can someone access the services of the Victoria Sexual Assault Clinic?

The clinic is available 24hrs a day, 7 days a week. The only way to access the clinic services is to call the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre's **Crisis and Information Line** at **250-383-3232**. From there, the caller will be connected with a support worker to discuss options including accessing the clinic.

Connect with the Clinic:
250-383-3232

Other Common Questions:

Should a survivor access medical care after a sexual assault?

It is encouraged that survivors receive some sort of medical attention, even if they do not have apparent injuries. Deciding which medical service is best is an individual decision and can only be made by the survivor.

Who will be at the Clinic:

When a survivor accesses the services of the clinic, they will meet with a support worker from the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre and a specially trained Forensic Nurse Examiner (FNE). The survivor may also meet with a police officer if they choose to report.*

Can I bring someone with me?

Yes. Survivors have the option to bring friends, partners or family members with them to the clinic for support.

What is the cost of the Clinic?

Money will never be a barrier to anyone trying to access services at the Victoria Sexual Assault Clinic. Survivors are encouraged to bring their care cards, but if they do not have one available, they can connect with the clinic support worker to go over their options.

How can I get there? What if I do not drive?

We can provide a cab service for survivors to access the services at the clinic.

How long will this process take?

The length a survivor could spend at the Victoria Sexual Assault Clinic depends on what options the survivor chooses. Typically, someone can expect the process to take between 2 - 4 hours in total. This total includes meeting with a support worker, going through the options, connecting with follow-up services as well as the medical and/or forensic exam and connecting with police if the survivor chooses.*

Medical Services:

Recent survivors of sexual assault, who do not require emergency medical care at a hospital, have access to the following medical services from a specially trained Forensic Nurse Examiner (FNE) at the Victoria Sexual Assault Clinic:

Medication - for common sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and pregnancy prevention. *(Available up to 7 days after a sexual assault)*

Medical exam - The FNE will examine the survivor to check for any injuries and ensure that the survivor is medically okay. *(Available up to 7 days after a sexual assault)*

Forensic Exam - Forensic exams include the same medical treatment as a medical exam, but includes the collection of physical evidence that can be used as part of a police investigation.

Survivors have the option to store the evidence in a freezer for up to a year if they are unsure about whether or not they would like to report to police. *(Available up to 3 days after a sexual assault)*

Please note: If a survivor has any urgent injuries, we encourage them to go directly to the hospital emergency department.

The Survivor's Choice

The medical and/or forensic services the survivor chooses is entirely their decision. The survivor has the option to stop the exam at any point, choose what part of the exam they are comfortable with or change their mind about the type of exam they receive.

What a Survivor Can Expect at the Clinic

- To receive comprehensive and respectful care from all members of the clinic including your support worker, Forensic Nurse Examiner, and if you choose* to involve police, the police.
- To receive full information about your options and supports available.
- To have the right and opportunity to ask questions.
- To have your decisions supported regarding your medical care and/or police reporting*.
- To have a support worker as well as friends, partners or family member present for support if requested.
- To have an exam room, washroom, hallways and elevator that are accessible for people who use mobility aids.
- To be met with staff and volunteers that are knowledgeable and welcoming to people of all genders including Trans, Two-Spirit and Gender Non-Conforming people.
- To receive continuing care from a medical practitioner.
- To receive support from the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre (or similar service) for ongoing support and resources.
- To have a clinic that will continually work to reduce barriers and increase accessibility to those most affected by sexualized violence.

***Please note:** If there is a child protection issue, the Clinic may have to involve either the police and/or the Ministry of Children and Families.

Medical and Forensics Exams
Support • Information
Options for Reporting to Police
Counselling • Victim Services
Resources • **Choice**



Connect with the
**Victoria Sexual
Assault Clinic**
24hrs a day, 7 days a week:
250-383-3232

The **Victoria Sexual Assault Clinic** (pictured above) will be housed in the **Victoria Community Response Centre** and will share space with the Victoria Child Abuse Prevention & Counselling Centre's Victoria Child Advocacy Centre.



Victoria Sexual Assault Clinic

The Victoria Sexual Assault Clinic can be accessed **24hrs a day, 7 days a week** through the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre's Crisis and Information Line:
250-383-3232

300B-3060 Cedar Hill Rd
Victoria, BC V8T 3J5

Business Line: 250-383-5545
(answered Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)

Email: crisisline@vsac.ca
(answered Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)

Website: www.vsaac.ca/clinic



Program of the:
**Victoria Sexual
Assault Centre**
healing, education & prevention