

Background

Across the country, states are working to eliminate the backlog of rape kits (also known as sexual assault evidence kits, or SAEKs) that have not been tested.

Since 2017, agencies in Maryland have teamed up to test all eligible rape kits for potential DNA evidence, provide services to victims, investigate more sexual assaults, and prosecute cases.

Maryland’s work on this is funded by the National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI), whose goal is to support victims and seek justice for these crimes.

Terms to Know

Rape Kit:

Also known as a sexual assault evidence kit or SAEK, rape kits are used during a sexual assault forensic exam to collect potential evidence of the sexual assault.

Unsubmitted SAEK:

A rape kit that was not sent to a crime lab for DNA testing.

Untested SAEK:

A rape kit that was sent to a crime lab for DNA testing, but has not yet been tested.

Victim Notification:

The opportunity for survivors to receive information and updates about the testing of their previously unsubmitted or untested rape kit.

Rape Crisis & Recovery Centers

Allegany

Family Crisis Resource Center
301-759-9244

Anne Arundel

YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County
410-222-6800

Baltimore City

TurnAround, Inc.
443-279-0379

Baltimore County

TurnAround, Inc.
443-279-0379

Calvert

Calvert Center for Change
1-877-467-5628

Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Talbot

For All Seasons, Inc.
410-820-5600
Toll Free 1-800-310-7273
Para Español 410-829-6143

Carroll

Rape Crisis Intervention Service
410-857-7322

Cecil

The Bridge
410-996-0333

Charles

Center for Abused Persons
301-645-3336

Frederick

Heartly House, Inc.
301-662-8800

Garrett

Dove Center
301-334-9000
Toll Free
1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

Harford

Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center (SARC)
410-836-8430

Howard

HopeWorks
410-997-2272
Toll Free 1-800-752-0191

Montgomery

Victim Assistance & Sexual Assault Program
240-777-4357

Prince George’s

DV/SA Center at UM Capital Region Medical Center
240-677-2337

St. Mary’s

Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy
240-925-0084

Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester

Life Crisis Center, Inc.
410-749-HELP (4357)

Washington

CASA, Inc.
301-739-8975



MCASA is open during the COVID-19 crisis - we are here for you.

mcasa.org | 301-328-7023

info@mcasa.org

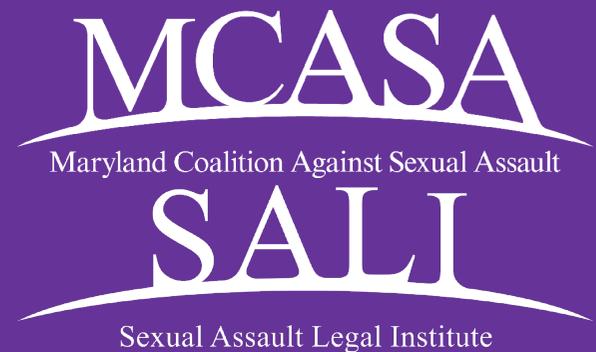
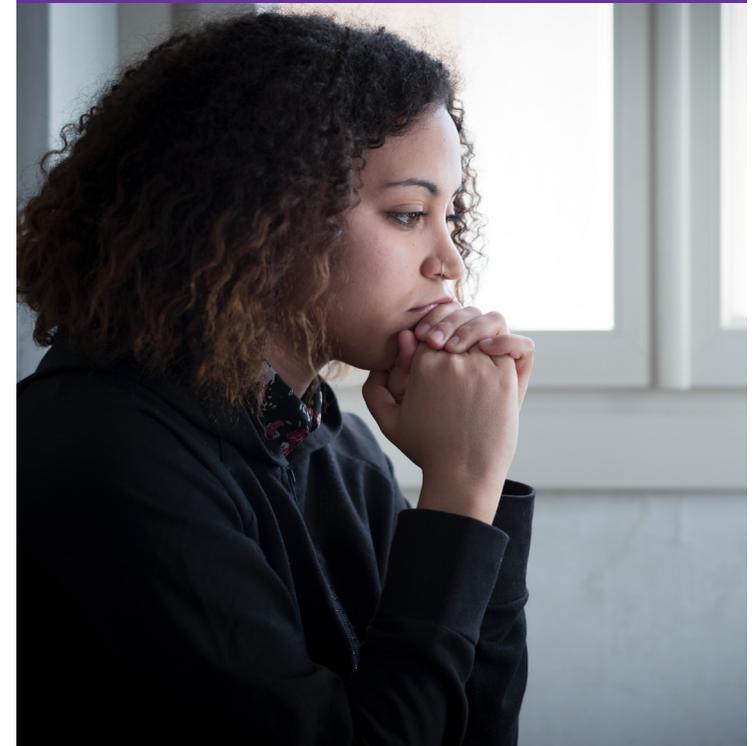
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SAKI

Sexual Assault Kit Initiative



What to Expect

It is natural for survivors affected by the backlog to feel overwhelmed or confused. **Fear, anxiety, and anger are all normal responses.** The SAKI Notification Team wants to help limit the emotional stress you may feel by giving you the ability to control your involvement in this process.

You will be working with a team who is dedicated to providing you with ongoing support. The team will include an advocate and a law enforcement officer, who are focused on addressing the backlog, prioritizing your safety and privacy, and working on your needs and concerns.

When you first hear from the victim notification team, you will receive a genuine apology for your kit not getting tested, and for being left with unanswered questions about your case. From this point forward, you can expect to be involved in your case however you feel is best for you.



Survivor Notification Protocol

You may be wondering, ‘how will I be contacted?’ The answer is up to you. If you would like to start receiving notifications, you can do so at any time by calling our information line or emailing us. SAKI advocates also conduct active outreach to survivors who have not opted in.



When you first speak with a SAKI advocate, you can outline how, when, and why you are contacted by a notification team. An advocate will guide you through the process and explain notification options, including phone, email, and in-person meetings. Once your kit has been tested, the victim notification team will contact you based on your preferences.



A SAKI advocate may ask you if you’d like to meet with law enforcement about your kit. This meeting may take place before or after your kit has been tested. Law enforcement will be there to provide case-related information and answer any questions regarding an investigation. You will have the opportunity to also have a SAKI advocate present at this meeting to provide emotional support and service referrals.

The notification team will continue to update you in accordance with your contact preferences, which you can change at any time. You will also be given the contact information for the members of your notification team so that you can reach out with questions or concerns.

Survivors may need time to process the information they receive, and the emotions that arise, during the notification process. With that in mind, the team knows that you may need time, and space, before you can make any decisions regarding your case.

Each victim notification team is:

- Dedicated to protecting the privacy and safety of every survivor;
- Committed to providing survivors with a voice during this process;
- Prepared to meet unique needs of each survivor;
- Available to listen to your concerns, answer your questions, and provide you with access to resources.

Resources

SAKI “Opt-In” information Lines
833-364-0046
notification@mcasa.org

Our advocates are still available during COVID-19

More information:
The MCASA SAKI Team
301-328-7166

Legal services:
The Sexual Assault Legal Institute
301-565-2277

Maryland’s Rape Crisis and Recovery Centers offer a variety of services for sexual assault survivors. If you have any questions, or are seeking support in processing the complex emotions associated with the testing of your unsubmitted rape kit, please contact your local Rape Crisis and Recovery Center.