



Houston
713-521-0059

If this happened to you in the last few days

You do not have to do anything with this card. Keep it in case you want it later.

People you can call, any hour

- Houston Area Women's Center, 24 hours: 1-800-256-0661
- Where to get the exam, forensic nurse hotline, 24 hours: 281-306-6893
- National Sexual Assault Hotline, 24 hours: 800-656-4673

Things that help later, whatever you decide to do

- Texas law says you cannot be made to pay for the forensic exam or the kit, and you do not need a police report to have it done.
- Keep the clothes you were wearing, unwashed, in a paper bag.
- Do not delete anything on your phone: messages, photos, the rideshare trip, your location history.
- Keep receipts, your room key, parking stubs, anything that shows where you were.
- Do not sign anything a hotel, apartment complex or company gives you until a lawyer or someone you trust has read it.

Something most people are not told

If this happened at a hotel, an apartment complex, a bar, a parking lot or in a rideshare, that business has video and records of that night. Most erase them on a schedule, often within days or weeks, unless told in writing to keep them. A lawyer can send that notice. Asking us costs nothing.



What to do in the first days, step by step:
schifferlawfirm.com/personal-injury/sexually-assaulted-in-houston-what-to-do-now/

Schiffer Law Firm, Houston. 713-521-0059.
Talking to us is free, and there is no attorney's fee unless there is a recovery. If you call, we will tell you what your case needs and get it started, beginning with written notice to whoever holds the video and records so it is kept.

Your nurse or advocate: _____ Phone: _____

This card is general information about Texas law. It is not legal advice about your situation, and reading it does not create an attorney-client relationship.

For the nurse, advocate or counselor giving this to a patient

What this is

The front is a one-page handout for your patient: the hotlines, the exam, what to keep, and at the bottom how to reach a lawyer who can say whether the business where it happened can be held responsible.

What we do not do

We do not ask you to refer anyone, and no one is paid for handing this out. We do not contact a survivor unless the survivor contacts us, we do not replace the hotline, the advocate or the exam, and we never ask you for patient information.

What we do when a survivor calls

We listen first, then do what the case needs. That usually begins with written notice to whoever holds the video, keycard logs or incident records, so the evidence is kept rather than recorded over. Where the case calls for it, we bring in the right experts and, where it serves the survivor, co-counsel with the resources a case like this demands. That decision is made in writing, with the survivor's consent, and it does not increase the survivor's total fee.

Talking to us is free, and there is no attorney's fee unless there is a recovery. There is no guaranteed response time, but we typically respond within 12 to 24 hours of a call or message.

Two kinds of help your patient may not know about

- **Texas Crime Victims Compensation:** A state fund that can pay some of a victim's costs, such as counseling and medical bills, within limits the state sets. Under Texas law a forensic exam counts as cooperation for that fund, so a patient who has not reported can still apply. It is explained at schifferlawfirm.com/personal-injury/texas-crime-victims-compensation/.
- **Civil Legal Claim:** A claim against the business where it happened, such as a hotel, apartment complex, bar, parking operator or rideshare company, for failing to keep the patient safe. It can seek the full cost of counseling and therapy for as long as it is needed, medical bills beyond what the fund covers, lost income, the cost of moving or breaking a lease, and compensation for what the patient went through, which the fund does not pay. Because the claim is against the business and not the attacker, it can go forward when the attacker is never identified or never charged. It is also, in practice, the process most likely to make the business change how it keeps people safe: lighting, locks, staffing, keycard controls. The patient does not need to know whether a claim exists. Finding that out is our job, and the call is free.

Pages written for you

- Texas law for advocates and SANE nurses (the exam, the kit, compensation, your privilege): schifferlawfirm.com/personal-injury/for-advocates-and-sane-nurses/
- Every Houston hospital that performs the exam, and the 24-hour forensic nurse hotline: schifferlawfirm.com/personal-injury/houston-sane-exam-locations/
- For more copies of this card, or the Spanish version when it is ready, call 713-521-0059 or download it from the advocates page above.