



*In Virginia*, if you have been raped or sexually assaulted:

**You have the right** to seek evidence collection **at no cost to you**;  
*and*,

**You have the right** to have evidence collected through a Physical Evidence Recovery Kit (PERK) **without** participating in the criminal justice system or cooperating with law enforcement or prosecution efforts.<sup>1</sup>

### The **SAFE Payment Program** will pay for:

- Emergency Room Physician fees
- Hospital and forensic examiner fees
- Testing for sexually transmitted infections (STI) and pregnancy
- Medications to prevent STIs and pregnancy
- Ambulance ride to a medical facility for the forensic examination
- Full course of HIV preventative medication if warranted
- Follow-up medical care while taking HIV preventative medication
- Follow-up medical forensic examinations

**Your healthcare provider should submit all required information**, including a detailed billing statement **directly** to the SAFE Payment Program. You should only receive a bill if:

- You decided not to have evidence collected
- You had injuries or existing medical conditions that required treatment
- You have any follow-up care, other than what is listed above

If you have any questions or receive a bill, you can **contact the SAFE Payment Program at 1.800.552.4007**.

### Testing and Storage of Evidence

If you choose not to report the crime, your Physical Evidence Recovery Kit (PERK) will not be tested and will be stored for a minimum of two years.

If and when you choose to report the crime, the police will take custody of your PERK and send it to the forensic lab for testing within 60 days of the request. You have the right to check the status and know the results of the testing.

Make sure your contact information is current with the investigator and/or the Commonwealth's Attorney assigned to your case.

**The Virginia Victims Fund** may be able to help you with the following costs as well:

- Moving or home security expenses,
- Lost wages,
- Counseling expenses,
- Replacement of clothing and/or bedding seized as evidence,
- Replacement of glasses or other prosthetics, and more.

To obtain a claim application or for more information, please visit [virginiavictimsfund.org](http://virginiavictimsfund.org) or call 1.800.552.4007

### **Additional Resources:**

- The Family Violence and Sexual Assault Hotline – 1.800.838.8238
- Department of Criminal Justice INFO-LINE – 1.888.887.3418

<sup>1</sup>Evidence collection or medical forensic examinations completed more than 3-5 days after the crime require authorization by law enforcement or a prosecutor. Generally, PERKs are completed within 3-5 days of the crime.