

## Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program:

The SANE program began as a three year demonstration program funded by the Nova Scotia Department of Health, and coordinated by Avalon Sexual Assault Centre. A Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner is a Registered Nurse who has advanced training and education in forensic examinations of sexual assault victims. The SANE program is a partnership with the IWK Hospital for Women, Children and Families, the QEII Health Sciences Centre, and the Dartmouth General Hospital. Through this initiative, on-call SANE's will provide immediate care and conduct forensic examinations of victims of sexual violence.

### The SANE Program Will Provide:

- Emergency response, 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Response to the emergency departments of the IWK, QEII, and Dartmouth General Hospitals
- Services to both males and females, 13 years of age and older
- Expert testimony in a court of law
- Supportive follow-up for victims and their families
- Storage of forensic evidence for up to six months

### The SANE Program Will Not Provide

- Transportation
- Medical services outside the hospital emergency departments
- Medical treatment to anyone other than victims of sexual violence

For more information, you may contact the SANE Coordinator during office hours at 422-6503 or 422-7406.

## About Avalon Sexual Assault Centre Who We Are

Avalon Centre is the only sexual assault centre in the Halifax Regional Municipality. We are a registered, not-for-profit, community based, charitable organization. The agency was established in 1983 and incorporated in 1984. We are a women-centred organization and provide a leadership role in ending all forms of sexual violence against women and children. We are committed to providing support programs, counseling, education, and advocacy for women affected by sexual violence. Our vision is to eliminate sexual violence, social injustice and other forms of oppression.

We gratefully acknowledge the core funding support provided by the Province of Nova Scotia, Department of Community Services; Capital Health; and the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia.

All donations from the public are gratefully accepted. Tax receipts will be issued upon request. We are an Associated Member of the Metro United Way's Donor Option program.

Avalon Sexual Assault Centre  
1526 Dresden Row, 4th Floor  
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3K3  
Business Line: (902)422-4240  
Avalon SANE Response Line: (902)425-0122  
Fax Line: (902) 422-4628  
avaloncentre@eastlink.ca  
www.avaloncentre.ca



# Who We Are, What We Do, What We Don't Do

### Avalon Sexual Assault Centre

1526 Dresden Row, 4th Floor  
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3K3

**Business Line:** (902) 422-4240

**Fax Line:** (902) 422-4628

**SANE Business Line:** (902) 422-6503

**SANE Fax Line:** (902) 422-4962

**SANE Response Line:** (902) 425-0122

avaloncentre@eastlink.ca  
bzareski\_saneprogram@yahoo.com  
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## What We Do and What We Do Not Do

### Direct Services Provided By Avalon Include:

- Individual Counseling
- Support/Therapy Groups
- Court Support
- Advocacy/Support/Referral
- Community Education
- Professional Development
- Partnerships and consultations with other agencies and community groups
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program
- Immediate Sexual Assault Response Line
- Accompaniment to police station, preparation and emotional support prior to and after giving a statement to police

### Avalon's Services Are:

- For women 16 years of age and older
- For non-offending parents, partners and family members of women and children who have experienced sexual violence
- Free of charge; a fee for service is charged for professional development and there is a small

- fee for group participation (used for refreshments)
- Provided by professional staff and trained volunteer workers
- Confidential and non-judgmental

### Avalon Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Immediate Sexual Assault Response Line

The Avalon SANE Program provides a response phone line that can be accessed by individuals who have experienced a sexual assault within the past 3 days (72 hrs.). This line is available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. During office hours, the SANE program can be accessed through the SANE business office. Counselors from Avalon Centre can be reached for emotional support or to arrange counselling during office hours (422-4240).

### Avalon SANE Response Line Nurses Do Provide:

- Services to those aged 13 years and older, male or female
- Confidential and non-judgmental support and referral
- Information regarding options and supports
- Medical care and/or forensic examination at the hospital (Up to 72 hours after a sexual assault has occurred.)

### Avalon Response Line Nurses Do Not:

- Give statements to the police or assist victims with giving a police statement
- Respond to the crime scene or the victim's home
- Provide services to anyone under age 13
- Provide professional counseling

### Avalon Centre Does **Not** Provide the Following:

- Services to youth under 16 years of age (the exception being through the SANE program); we do provide information, phone support, referrals and educational materials
- Individual counselling for male survivors. We do provide phone support, information, referrals, and educational materials. The SANE program provides medical follow up and forensic evidence collection to males after an immediate sexual assault
- Services to survivors dealing with issues relating to psychosis or other critical mental illnesses
- Counseling and support groups for male survivors of sexual violence; we do provide information, referrals and educational materials
- Services for offenders
- Services relating to other forms of violence, such as ongoing partner/intimate abuse
- Counseling that is court ordered, mandated by the Family and Children's Services Act, or mandated by other agencies
- Couples/family counseling
- Medical services beyond those provided by the SANE program
- Referrals to doctors or lawyers
- Legal advice
- The release of confidential information
- The names of survivors/victims to media or organizations looking for speakers or representation
- Self defense programs