



CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL BRANCH  
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Jennifer Pierce-Weeks  
CEO  
International Association of Forensic Nurses  
6755 Business Parkway, Suite 303  
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

Dear Jennifer,

As a follow-up to my clarification letter dated October 17, 2019, I want to inform you of the decision made by the members of the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee regarding the use of SANE-A as a variant of SAFE.

At the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee, the members discussed a possible change in the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFE) policies and procedures in response to Section 2 of Public Act 19-114 which provides,

No person shall use the title "sexual assault forensic examiner" or any variant of such title, without successfully completing the certification requirements imposed by the Chief Court Administrator pursuant to subsection (c) of section 19a-112f, as amended by this act.

This requires that only medical professionals who have completed the Judicial Branch Training Program may use the title "Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner" (SAFE), or any variant of that title. This has created an issue with the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) over the exclusion of nurses who have obtained SANE - A certification. Nurses who have met specific requirements can apply for and take a comprehensive exam, which if passed qualifies the individual to use the title SANE-A (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner - Adult/Adolescent).

It is the position of the Office of Victim Services that they may or may not be current on state protocols, including but not limited to Connecticut law, the use of the specific kit, and community services available for referral. The use of the SANE - A title, a variant of SAFE, without some further training in accordance with current law would conflict with the letter and spirit of Public Act 19-114.

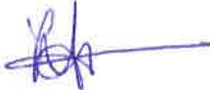
The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Advisory Committee approved the following recommendation, which was approved by the Judicial Branch Chief Court Administrator: In order for a SANE-A to be considered an acceptable variant of SAFE under current legislation, the SANE- A shall attend a one-day training course sponsored by the SAFE Program. The content of the day-long training is intended to provide Connecticut specific information not covered by training for SANE-A certification and will include a:

- General orientation of sexual assault crisis agencies and other service partners;
- Review of the CT Technical Guidelines (current version)
- Review of the CT100 and CT400 kits (current version)
- Review of the IAFN Educational Guidelines (current version)
- Review of pertinent CT laws, and
- Skills based component (state specific)

Upon the successful completion of the day-long training, the Branch will issue each participant a letter stating that the person completed the SAFE overview (in compliance with General Statutes 19a-112e (7)) and, therefore, they may use their SANE-A title in Connecticut as a variant of the title of SAFE. By this process, the SANE-A nurses have a pathway to conduct forensic exams and OVS will have the opportunity to ensure compliance with the legislation.

Currently there are two medical professionals in Connecticut who have earned the SANE-A board certification and who are not a member of the Branch's SAFE Program. I will contact each SANE-A and explain the legislation and offer them the opportunity to take the day long training.

Please contact me if you have additional questions,



Linda J. Cimino  
Director