



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

# Understanding the OAG SANE Certification



# Objectives

- ▶ Explain the SANE's role as part of a collaborative team in addressing sexual assault
  
- ▶ Identify the new minimum standards and explain how they differ from the old standards for
  - SANE Training
  - OAG SANE Certification
  - OAG SANE Certification Renewal
  - Reciprocity
  
- ▶ Describe new requirements for SANE Training Program Certification



# **SANE's Role As Part Of A Collaborative Team In Addressing Sexual Assault**



# What Does a SANE Do?

A Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner is an RN who has been specifically trained to:

- ▶ Provide comprehensive care to the patient with a complaint of sexual assault or abuse
- ▶ Conduct a medical forensic examination to include evaluation for evidence collection, if indicated
- ▶ Show compassion and sensitivity to survivors of sexual assault
- ▶ Provide trauma-informed and culturally competent care
- ▶ Provide information about the medical forensic examination in legal proceedings, if needed



# Role of the SANE in the Medical Forensic Examination

An evaluation of a patient with a complaint of sexual assault usually has two objectives:

- ▶ Assessment and treatment
  - History
  - Evaluation and treatment of health status
  - Bio-psycho-social-spiritual responses
  
- ▶ Forensic examination – any material collected or documented, or tests provided that may be used in an investigation or prosecution; the evidence collection
  - Evidentiary outcomes
  - Courtroom testimony
  - Evaluation of systems responsive to the sexual assault in the court and the community

ANA and IAFN, 2009



# Responsibility of the SANE

- ▶ The SANE does not determine or conclude whether a sexual assault has occurred.
- ▶ Only responsible for identifying and documenting injury and recovering potential evidence

Ferrell and Caruso, 2011



# SANE Role in Community

- ▶ Collaboration with the multidisciplinary team
  - Educate on the examination process
  
- ▶ Provide community education about
  - Decreasing risk factors
  - Availability of services



# Community Benefit of a SANE Program

Use of specially educated and clinically prepared SANEs

- ▶ Increases the likelihood of a state-of-the-art examination
- ▶ Enhances a coordinated team approach
- ▶ Encourages quality control
  - Use of competent and dedicated examiners
  - Established standards of medical care
  - Established procedures for evidence collection
- ▶ Increases quality of care and attention to the specific needs of the sexual assault patient

OVW, 2013





# OAG SANE Certification



# OAG SANE Certification Overview

- ▶ OAG SANE certification is based on the currency of practice of the applicant seeking certification.
- ▶ Currency of practice includes nursing experience, education and clinical skills training.



# OAG SANE Certification Types

- ▶ Certified Adult/Adolescent SANE (CA-SANE)
- ▶ Certified Pediatric SANE (CP-SANE)
- ▶ Individuals may apply for one or both of the certifications.
- ▶ CA-CP certifications will no longer be offered to new applicants.
- ▶ Nurses holding a current OAG CA-CP certification may retain their CA-CP certification throughout the duration of their certification.



# OAG SANE Initial Certification



# OAG SANE Certification Eligibility

## Texas Administrative Code Rule 62.5

(a) To be eligible for an OAG SANE certification, an RN must:

- 1) Hold a current and unencumbered license with the Texas BON;
- 2) Have a minimum of two years direct contact with patients as an RN within the last five years at the time the application for initial certification is submitted; and
- 3) Have completed an OAG SANE Training Program, including training, clinical requirements for the appropriate OAG SANE certification, and courtroom observation requirements, as described on the OAG website.



# OAG SANE Certification Eligibility

## Texas Administrative Code Rule 62.5

- (b) An applicant may request a waiver of training, clinical requirements, or courtroom observation requirements by providing documentation that the applicant completed the equivalent of the training or requirements. Requests may be approved on a case-by-case basis.
- (c) An applicant who maintains a SANE certification other than an OAG SANE certification may be eligible for an OAG SANE certification. Requests may be approved on a case-by-case basis.



# Individuals Interested in Becoming Certified Must

- ▶ Meet the minimum nursing qualifications
  - Hold the appropriate nursing license
  - Have nursing experience
  
- ▶ Complete three core components
  - An OAG-approved SANE Training Course
  - Clinical requirements
  - Courtroom observation
  
- ▶ **All requirements must be completed within one year of starting the adult/adolescent portion of the Training Course.**



# Step One – Nursing Licensure

- ▶ Be an RN with current and unencumbered license with the Texas Board of Nursing
- ▶ Provide a nursing license number in the SANE Certification Application
- ▶ Individuals with licensure encumbrances that impede their ability to perform as a SANE – to provide nursing care and treatment for a patient who presents with a complaint of sexual assault – may be denied certification.





## Step Two – Nursing Experience

- ▶ Have a minimum of two years direct contact with patients (active practice) as an RN within the last five years at the time the application for certification is submitted



## Step Three – Complete an OAG-Approved SANE Training Course

- ▶ Minimum of 80 hours that
  - Contains an adult/adolescent and a pediatric class
  - Meets the OAG SANE Curriculum Requirements
- ▶ Individuals must take the adult/adolescent class before taking the pediatric class.
- ▶ Document completion of the Training Course by providing a copy of the course certificate
- ▶ **All training requirements must be completed within one year of starting the adult/adolescent portion of the Training Course.**



## Step Four – Clinical Requirements

- ▶ Complete the clinical requirements for the requested Certification Type
- ▶ Individuals **must complete the appropriate training class** (either adult/adolescent or pediatric) **before beginning their clinical requirements** for that patient population.
- ▶ **Individuals cannot begin advanced clinical until the basic clinical requirements have been completed.**
- ▶ **All examinations must be supervised by a preceptor.**



# Basic Clinical Requirements

CA-SANE	CP-SANE
15 Pelvic Examinations*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 15 Pelvic Examinations*</li><li>• 20 Well-Child Examinations</li></ul>

**\*NOTE: Applicants seeking CA-SANE and CP-SANE are only required to complete 15 total pelvic examinations.**



# Pediatric Definition

- ▶ **Pediatric** – A child who is 17 years of age or younger
- ▶ **Prepubescent** – A female child who is pre-menarcheal or a male child who is Tanner Classification of Sexual Maturity Stage two or less
- ▶ **Adolescent** – A child who is 17 years of age or younger and at least a stage three of Tanner Classification of Sexual Maturity (onset of menses in the female). The adolescent patient may present for an acute or non-acute sexual assault medical forensic examination.



# Pelvic Examinations Definition in the OAG SANE Curriculum Requirements

- ▶ Visual inspection and palpation of the external structures of the adult/adolescent female genitalia (vulva) to assess for normalcy, disease processes and/or trauma
- ▶ A visual inspection with the use of a vaginal speculum inserted into the vagina allows for visual assessment of the internal genital structures: vaginal vault and the cervix to assess for normalcy, disease processes and/or trauma
- ▶ Inspections must be performed on a patient who is not presenting with an acute complaint of sexual assault or abuse.
- ▶ Medical models may be used for any or all of the required adult pelvic examinations.



# Pelvic Examinations

- ▶ **Purpose:** To apply the information learned during the SANE training about the anatomy and physiology of the adult/adolescent genitalia and develop basic examiner skills in a practical application
- ▶ **Goal:** Prepare the SANE student to appropriately conduct an anogenital examination of an adult or adolescent patient who presents with a complaint of sexual assault
- ▶ Must complete before beginning advanced clinical



# Well-Child Examinations

- ▶ Examination of a pediatric patient focusing on growth and development according to the age of the patient
  - Cognitive
  - Linguistic
  - Neurological
  - Psychological
  - Appearance
  - Genitalia physiology according to maturity





# Well-Child Examinations

- ▶ Examinations should be conducted on a variety of age groups to learn more about the different stages of growth and development.
- ▶ Ages are approximate as growth and development varies with each individual child.
  - Infant (birth – 1 year of age)
  - Toddler (1 - 3 years of age)
  - Pre-school child (3 - 6 years of age)
  - School-aged child (6 - 12 years of age)
  - Preadolescent child (12 - 13 years of age)
  - Adolescent child (13 - 17 years of age)



# Well-Child Examinations

- ▶ **Purpose:** To apply the principles of normal pediatric (prepubescent and adolescent) growth and development, including the anogenital region, learned during the SANE training and develop basic skills as an examiner in a practical application
- ▶ **Goal:** Prepare the individual to conduct an examination of a pediatric patient who presents with a complaint of sexual assault or abuse



# Advanced Clinical Requirements

## CA-SANE

### 8 CA-SANE Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations

- Two may be non-acute examinations without the use of an evidence kit
- One examination may be completed as an adult medical forensic examination simulation

## CP-SANE

### 10 CP-SANE Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations

- Six examinations must be of the **prepubescent** patient
- Four examinations must be of the **adolescent** patient



# Advanced Clinical

- ▶ The OAG will count one observation examination for each category of the basic and advanced examinations.
- ▶ The remaining examinations must be completed with active participation from the applicant.



# Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examination

- ▶ A specialized examination provided, pursuant to Texas Government Code, Chapter 420, that uses an OAG-approved evidence collection kit and protocol
- ▶ This examination encompasses the care and treatment of a patient who presents with a complaint of sexual assault – including a medical history for the purpose of diagnosis and treatment; head-to-toe examination to assess for trauma; detailed anogenital examination to assess for trauma; and collection of forensic evidence as indicated by history and findings
- ▶ **If an individual is applying for CA-SANE, one examination may include an adult medical forensic examination simulation.**



# CA-SANE Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examination

- ▶ **Purpose:** To build on the basic clinical skills learned conducting pelvic examinations, and develop skills to appropriately evaluate and treat an adult or adolescent patient who presents with a complaint of sexual assault
- ▶ **Goal:** Prepare the SANE student to appropriately conduct an examination of an adult or adolescent patient who presents with a complaint of sexual assault



# Adult Medical Forensic Examination Simulation

- ▶ A simulated sexual assault medical forensic examination conducted on an adult patient actor
- ▶ The examination must be completed in the same manner and utilize the same clinical requirements as an acute sexual assault medical forensic examination.
- ▶ The examinations must be completed in the presence of a SANE and the SANE supervisor or coordinator, and must be signed by a preceptor.



# CP-SANE Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examination

- ▶ **Purpose:** To build on the basic clinical skills learned during the well-child and pelvic examinations, and develop skills to evaluate and treat a pediatric patient who presents with a complaint or suspicion of sexual assault or abuse
- ▶ **Goal:** Prepare the individual to conduct an examination of a pediatric patient who presents with a complaint of sexual assault or abuse





# Clinical Preceptors

- ▶ Preceptor:
  - An experienced health care professional or practitioner who provides guidance and expertise, and is
  - A licensed health care professional **selected** by the health care agency to precept the applicant
- ▶ Preceptor verifies that they personally observed the examination and the individual completed the examination with the required degree of complexity as required by the preceptor.
- ▶ Preceptor must sign the SANE Clinical Requirements Form.



# SANE Clinical Requirements Form

- ▶ Used for basic and advanced clinical requirements
- ▶ The applicant may only include **one examination type** per form (group all same type of examinations on the form).
- ▶ **All clinical requirements must be completed within one year of starting the adult/adolescent class.**



## Step Five – Courtroom Observation

- ▶ 16 hours of in-person courtroom observation
- ▶ Should attend cases related to sexual assault or other criminal proceedings that involve expert testimony
- ▶ Courtroom observation for traffic violations will not be accepted.
- ▶ **Applicants seeking both CA-SANE and CP-SANE certification are only required to complete 16 hours total of courtroom observation.**



# SANE Courtroom Observation Form

- ▶ Requires signed verification by appropriate court personnel
  - Bailiffs
  - Prosecuting attorney or staff
  - Court clerk
  - Judicial staff
  
- ▶ **All courtroom observation requirements must be completed within one year of starting the adult/adolescent class.**



## Step Six – Complete Application Packet

- ▶ Submit a complete application packet to the OAG.
- ▶ A complete application packet consists of:
  - SANE Certification Application
  - Copy of Training Course Certificate
  - SANE Clinical Requirements Form(s)
  - SANE Courtroom Observation Form(s)
  - SANE Verification Form

[www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cvs/sexual-assault-prevention-and-crisis-services](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cvs/sexual-assault-prevention-and-crisis-services)

- ▶ **All requirements must be completed and the application must be submitted within one year of starting the adult/adolescent class.**



# Requirements Timeframe Example

All requirements must be completed

- ▶ **Within** one year / 12 months from the first day of the adult/adolescent segment of the 80-hour training course
- ▶ Example: Class begins 1/1/13 and clinical period ends 12/31/13



# Requirements for Waiver Requests

- ▶ Only given for the three core components:
  - Training course
  - Clinical requirements
  - Courtroom observation
  
- ▶ Requests may be approved on a case-by-case basis.
  
- ▶ Waivers must be requested and approved **prior to submitting application for certification.**
  
- ▶ Contact the OAG SANE administrator for more information.



# Requirements for Extension Requests

- ▶ Extensions are only given in special circumstances.
- ▶ If you need an extension, contact the SANE program administrator as soon as possible.
- ▶ Extension will not be considered after clinical period expires.





# **OAG SANE Certification Renewal**



# Renewal of an OAG SANE Certification

## Texas Administrative Code Rule 62.6

- (a) An application for renewal for an OAG SANE certification must be submitted and received by the OAG prior to the expiration of the existing OAG SANE certification.
- (b) To be eligible to renew an OAG SANE certification, an RN must:
  - 1) Hold a current and unencumbered license with the Texas BON;
  - 2) Hold a current OAG SANE certification; and
  - 3) Have completed the currency of practice requirements, as described on the OAG website.



# Renewal of an OAG SANE Certification

## Texas Administrative Code Rule 62.6

- (c) If the renewal application is received prior to the expiration of the OAG SANE certification, the certification shall continue in effect until the OAG makes a decision regarding the renewal.
  
- (d) If the OAG SANE does not submit a renewal application prior to the expiration of the OAG SANE certification, the OAG SANE certification expires.



# OAG SANE Certification Renewal

- ▶ Applicants must complete all requirements and apply before the applicant's current certification expires.
- ▶ **Applications submitted after expiration will not be considered and no extension will be granted under any circumstances.**
- ▶ If the **SANE Certification Renewal Application** is received prior to the expiration of the OAG SANE certification, the certification shall continue in effect until the OAG makes a decision regarding the renewal.



# Step One – Nursing Licensure

- ▶ Be an RN with current and unencumbered license with the Texas Board of Nursing
- ▶ Provide a nursing license number in the SANE Certification Application
- ▶ Individuals with licensure encumbrances that impede their ability to perform as a SANE – to provide nursing care and treatment for a patient who presents with a complaint of sexual assault – may be denied certification.



## Step Two – Nursing Experience

- ▶ Hold a current OAG SANE certification
- ▶ Provide the certification number on the SANE certification Renewal Application
- ▶ If an applicant's OAG SANE certification has expired, the applicant will not be eligible for certification renewal.



## Step Three – Continuing Education

- ▶ Additional training for the purposes of maintaining currency of practice
- ▶ Continuing education includes continuing education activities and case reviews.
- ▶ All continuing education activities **must be directly related to the content specified in the OAG SANE Curriculum Requirements**, and the content must be relevant to care of the patient presenting with a complaint of sexual assault or abuse.



# Continuing Education

- ▶ Activities can be obtained through:
  - Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) activity hours approved through TNA or another approver of continuing education accredited by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation (ANCC); or
  - Non-accredited CNE hours pertaining to appropriate content matter
  
- ▶ The following activities are not acceptable: Basic Cardiac Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, and any CE obtained regarding basic nursing education





# Continuing Education Requirements

<b>CA-SANE 20 Total Hours</b>	<b>CP-SANE 24 Total Hours</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 12 hours of continuing education activities specific to the Introductory, Adult/Adolescent, and Miscellaneous Segments of the OAG Curriculum Requirements</li><li>• Eight hours of case review<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Four hours specific to the adult patient</li><li>• Four hours specific to the adolescent patient</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 12 hours of continuing education activities specific to the Introductory, Pediatric, and Miscellaneous Segments of the OAG Curriculum Requirements</li><li>• 12 hours of case review<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eight hours specific to the prepubescent patient</li><li>• Four hours specific to the adolescent patient</li></ul></li></ul>



# Continuing Education Requirements

- ▶ **NOTE: Applicants seeking CA-SANE and CP-SANE are only required to complete four total hours of case review specific to the adolescent patient.**
- ▶ Document completion of the continuing education activities using the **SANE Continuing Education Activities Form** and case reviews using the **SANE Case Review Form**
- ▶ Provide certificates of completion or other documentation to verify attendance or completion



## Step Four – Clinical Requirements

- ▶ Complete the clinical requirements for the requested certification type
- ▶ Document completion of the clinical requirements using the **SANE Renewal Clinical Requirements Form**
- ▶ **SANE Renewal Clinical Requirements Form** is used for all clinical requirements; however, the applicant may only include **one examination type** per form.
- ▶ All forms must be signed by the applicant and the applicant's SANE program supervisor or coordinator



# Clinical Requirements

CA-SANE	CP-SANE
<p><b>10 CA-SANE Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One examination may be completed as an adult medical forensic examination simulation</li></ul>	<p><b>10 CP-SANE Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A minimum of <b>six examinations</b> must be of the <b>prepubescent</b> patient</li></ul>

**NOTE: Clinical requirements for renewal do not need to be completed in the presence of a preceptor.**



## Step Five – Complete Renewal Application Packet

- ▶ Submit a complete application packet to the OAG.
- ▶ A complete application packet consists of:
  - SANE Certification Renewal Application
  - SANE Continuing Education Activities Form
  - SANE Case Review Form
  - SANE Renewal Clinical Requirements Form(s)
  - SANE Renewal Verification Form
  - Certificates of completion or other documentation to verify attendance or completion

[www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cvs/sexual-assault-prevention-and-crisis-services](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cvs/sexual-assault-prevention-and-crisis-services)



# Reciprocity



# Interstate Reciprocity

## Texas Administrative Code Rule 62.7

- (a) Registered nurses from other party or compact states, as recognized by the BON, may apply for an OAG SANE certification.
- (b) To be eligible, an RN must:
  - 1) Hold a current and unencumbered license with the Texas BON; and
  - 2) Meet the standards for an OAG SANE certification.



# Interstate Reciprocity

## Texas Administrative Code Rule 62.7

- (c) Reciprocity for training, clinical requirements, or courtroom observation requirements may be approved on a case-by-case basis.
  
- (d) Applicants seeking reciprocity may be required to take components of the OAG SANE Training Program. The required components of the training program will be determined on a case-by-case basis.





# Reciprocity

- ▶ Considered on a case-by-case basis and will be reviewed by the Committee
  
- ▶ The applicant must
  - Meet the renewal continuing education requirements
  - Complete minimum four-hour training regarding Texas law impacting SANE practice
  - Prove currency of practice by being able to meet renewal clinical requirements
  
- ▶ May require other education based upon assessment



# **SANE Training Program Certification**



# Standards for OAG SANE Training Program Certification

## Texas Administrative Code Rule 62.3

- (a) For a SANE training program to become certified as an OAG SANE Training Program, the program shall at a minimum, include provisions for the following:
- 1) Training, including but not limited to the following topics: dynamics of sexual assault, maltreatment of special populations, multidisciplinary team response to sexual assault, role of the advocate, historical perspective of the sexual assault nurse examiner, role and responsibilities of the SANE, vicarious trauma, regulatory laws and standards, criminal justice system and court appearances, the sexual assault medical forensic examination, treatment modalities and nursing care;
  - 2) Clinical requirements; and
  - 3) Courtroom observation requirements.



# Standards for OAG SANE Training Program Certification

## Texas Administrative Code Rule 62.3

- (b) A description of the minimum standards for each of the components of an OAG SANE Training Program is described on the OAG website.
- (c) In developing the minimum standards for an OAG SANE Training Program, the OAG shall consult with individuals and organizations having knowledge and experience relating to sexual assault.



# OAG SANE Training Program Certification Eligibility

## Texas Administrative Code Rule 62.9

- (a) To be eligible for an OAG SANE Training Program Certification, a SANE training program must:
  - 1) Substantially provide the same training components as the OAG SANE Training Program for the appropriate OAG SANE certification, as described on the OAG website; and
  - 2) Be recognized by a credentialing agency that is approved by the BON.
- (b) An OAG SANE Training Program has no authority to issue an OAG SANE certification.



# OAG SANE Training Program Certification

To be eligible for OAG SANE Training Program Certification, programs must have:

- ▶ Been in existence for at least five years prior to applying
- ▶ SANE coordinator oversight
- ▶ Medical oversight



# OAG SANE Training Program Certification

To become certified, programs must:

- ▶ Develop and deliver an 80-hour OAG-approved SANE Training Course
- ▶ Provide and supervise clinical skills training, which includes oversight and preceptor responsibilities
- ▶ Provide and supervise courtroom observation opportunities
- ▶ Support the development of SANEs in the community
- ▶ Assist nurses seeking OAG SANE certification



# **Additional Resources**





# SAPCS Additional Resources and Information

- ▶ SANE Program – OAG Certification (Currency of Practice)
- ▶ Primary Prevention
- ▶ Sexual Assault Training Program – Advocate Training
- ▶ SAER (Sexual Assault Examination Reimbursement)



# SANE Program Point of Contact

Kathleen (Kat) Gann  
SANE Program Administrator  
Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services  
(512) 936-2880  
[kathleen.gann@texasattorneygeneral.gov](mailto:kathleen.gann@texasattorneygeneral.gov)



# Primary Prevention Program Point of Contact

Peggy Helton

Primary Prevention Program Coordinator  
Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services

(512) 936-1423

[peggy.helton@texasattorneygeneral.gov](mailto:peggy.helton@texasattorneygeneral.gov)



# Advocate Training Certification Program Point of Contact

Patty Wilford

Sexual Assault Training Program Coordinator  
Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services

(512) 936-2925

[patty.wilford@texasattorneygeneral.gov](mailto:patty.wilford@texasattorneygeneral.gov)



# SAPCS Manager

Kaye Woodard-Hotz

Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services Manager

(512) 936-6648

[kaye.woodard-hotz@texasattorneygeneral.gov](mailto:kaye.woodard-hotz@texasattorneygeneral.gov)



# Sexual Assault Exam Reimbursement Points of Contact

Juanita Sepeda

Crime Victims' Compensation Program

(512) 936-1246

[juanita.sepeda@texasattorneygeneral.gov](mailto:juanita.sepeda@texasattorneygeneral.gov)

Roxanne Ramon

Crime Victims' Compensation Program

(512) 936-1920

[roxanne.ramon@texasattorneygeneral.gov](mailto:roxanne.ramon@texasattorneygeneral.gov)