



What is Forensic Nursing?

When people hear "forensic nursing," they often think crime scenes and television detectives. In reality, forensic nurses are healthcare professionals specially trained to recognize, assess, document, and respond to patients affected by violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, and trauma.

Forensic nurses bridge the gap between healthcare and the legal system while keeping patient safety, autonomy, and healing at the center of care. They provide trauma-informed medical assessments, injury documentation, evidence collection when appropriate, safety planning, education, and referrals to community resources.

Forensic nursing extends far beyond sexual assault care and includes child maltreatment, intimate partner violence, strangulation, elder abuse, human trafficking, death investigation, disaster response, and more.

Many patients present to healthcare settings without disclosing violence or abuse. A trained forensic nurse can help identify concerns that might otherwise be missed, ensuring patients receive comprehensive care and access to resources.

Resources for Interested Providers:

- International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN)
- SANE-A® / SANE-P® Certification Programs
- Adult/Adolescent SANE/SAFE Didactic Training
- Clinical Skills Labs and Preceptorship Opportunities
- Strangulation Training Institute
- Child Abuse and Medical Response Training Programs
- Local SART/MDT Team Participation

Interested in learning more about forensic nursing or becoming a forensic examiner? Reach out to FERN to learn about training opportunities and community partnerships throughout Eastern Idaho.