



For Immediate Release

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**MADIGAN: METRO EAST SANE TRAINING CONTINUES
THROUGH FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20**

***STATEWIDE TRAINING DIRECTED BY MADIGAN'S SANE
COORDINATOR***

Chicago – More than two dozen health care professionals and other participants have registered to attend a five-day Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) training hosted by Attorney General Lisa Madigan that began Monday in Collinsville and continues through Friday.

For registered nurses (RNs) attending, Madigan said the 40-hour educational training will provide them with the opportunity to meet the classroom requirement of the International Association of Forensic Nurses certification process for SANEs. All sessions are being held at the Gateway Center in Collinsville. This is the fourth training seminar conducted by Madigan's office for nurses, physicians, sexual assault service providers, law enforcement and prosecutors.

“During our first three sessions, 134 professionals from 78 different hospitals and agencies have attended,” Madigan said. “In addition to RNs, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, sexual assault advocates and members of law enforcement also attend to acquire valuable information and training that will benefit the communities they serve.”

A Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) is a registered nurse who has been specially trained to provide comprehensive care to sexual assault patients in a medical environment. Because almost no other criminal offense requires as extensive an examination and collection of evidence as a sexual assault, SANEs receive specialized training in evidence collection techniques to gather physical evidence in sexual assault cases. Physical evidence, like DNA or hair and nail fiber, can increase the chances of a conviction, and having such evidence can help to relieve some of the trauma experienced by the victim. SANEs also appear as expert witnesses during court proceedings.

“The SANE training program is helping us to better protect and comfort Illinoisans from the traumatic effects of sexual assault and to enhance our ability to successfully prosecute these cases,” Madigan continued.

The first-ever SANE coordinator for Illinois, Julie Garner-Teno - an RN, SANE and member of the International Association of Forensic Nurses - will

oversee and conduct some of sessions during the week-long training.

With statistics showing that more than 16 women report being raped each day in Illinois, Madigan's Crime Victim Services Division oversees several programs for victims of sexual assault and violent crime. More information about these programs is available online at www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov/victims and www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov/women or by calling Madigan's toll-free Victim Assistance Line at 1-800-228-3368.

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