



News from the Shelby County Mayor's Office
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Shelby County Rape Crisis Center to Conduct Emergency Child Sexual Assault Exams

Children suspected of being sexually assaulted will soon get emergency examinations at the Shelby County Rape Crisis Center at 1750 Madison. Officials with the county's Community Services Division and Le Bonheur Children's Hospital say the new process will streamline emergency rape case investigations for victims of all ages.

"Our facility is fully staffed with certified nurses who will conduct the emergency examinations. The Shelby County Rape Crisis Center operates 24-hours a day and will ensure all sexual assault victims, especially children, get needed assistance," said Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.

Last year, staff from Le Bonheur Children's Hospital conducted more than 200 sexual assault examinations involving children. Emergency examinations were done at the hospital's emergency department at 50 North Dunlap. Scheduled exams were done at the Memphis Child Advocacy Center at 1085 Poplar Avenue, which also provides counseling services to child rape victims and their families.

Beginning this Saturday, September 1st, the emergency exams will be conducted at the Rape Crisis Center, just a couple of miles away, at the Family Safety Center building.

"We're discussing the new procedure with law enforcement agencies and the Shelby County District Attorney's Office. Having a primary place for emergency rape case examinations will make it easier for victims to find assistance," said Dottie Jones, Director of Shelby County's Community Services Division.

Shelby County Division of Community Services is working with the Shelby County District Attorney General's office and the Memphis Child Advocacy Center to ensure that all changes made will be in the best interests of the children. With the Rape Crisis Center being co-located with the Family Safety Center, victims and their families will also have easy access to law enforcement officers and crime victim assistance counselors. In addition, the Memphis Child Advocacy Center will continue to provide counseling services to child rape victims and their families.

(End of Release)