

SUPPORTING THE

Safe Center

A Comprehensive Forensic Care Center at Jefferson Health—Abington

For over 20 years, the Forensic Nurse Examiner (FNE) program at Jefferson Health—Abington has been a leader in forensic healthcare and an essential community resource for individuals experiencing multiple forms of abuse, including but not limited to: labor trafficking, sex trafficking, elder abuse (including self-neglect), child abuse, intimate partner violence, and sexual assault.

Our team of 14 forensic nurses provide specialized, trauma-informed care to an ever-growing patient population across Bucks, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties. In 2020, 207 patients sought forensic care at Jefferson Abington Hospital's Emergency Trauma Center. Between July 2022 and May 2023, the forensic care team served 372 patients. A national rise in sexual violence and human trafficking has also shined a light on the need for new clinical spaces that provide greater access to high-quality forensic care.

In January 2023, the FNE program expanded its clinical reach by opening the **Safe Center**, a separate, private clinical space within the Emergency Trauma Center dedicated to serving victims of abuse. The center offers a private exam suite with a bathroom and shower, a private interview room, and secured evidence collection lockers. Sexual assault testing and kit storage are managed in compliance with forensic standards, law enforcement guidelines, and the patient's preferences. Patients are able to complete physical exams at their own pace with the assistance of the FNE team and other trauma-informed care specialists.

You make the difference. Empowered by philanthropy, the Safe Center has emerged as a vital resource for patients throughout the region. As we look to the future, the Safe Center seeks continued support for nurses in the FNE program to receive training in performing pediatric sexual assault exams. This training will empower our FNE program to recruit, retain, and equip more experts in the field with the skills needed to help children and their families recover in a trusting and safe environment.

*"When patients arrive at the **Safe Center**, they are in an incredibly vulnerable state, seeking comfort, support, and healthcare that will take their unique needs into account.*

That's what I want our patients to know—when they come to the center, they will be in a peaceful environment that puts them first and helps them feel safe again."



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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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