

Additional Resources

Brief Glossary of Anatomic and Forensic Terminology

<i>abrasion</i>	A scraping away of the surface, as in a skinned knee
<i>anoscope</i>	A piece of health care equipment used to assess injury to the anus and rectum
<i>chain of custody</i>	<p>A legal term which means the movement and location of evidence from the time it is obtained to the time it is presented in court. Chain of custody requires testimony of continuous possession by each individual having possession, together with testimony by each that the object remained in substantially the same condition during its presence in his possession (Black's Law Dictionary, 222. 7th ed., 1999).</p> <p>If the evidence cannot be accounted for at all times since its collection, there exists the possibility that someone may have tampered with it. It is difficult for evidence to be admitted if the chain of custody is not intact.</p>
<i>colposcope</i>	An instrument used to magnify the perineum and vagina, using an optimal illumination source. Colposcopes usually have attachments to accommodate a 35mm camera or a video camera.
<i>contusion</i>	Bruise
<i>fossa navicularis</i>	The internal area between the external entryway to the vagina and the hymen
<i>hymen</i>	A fold of tissue in the lower segment of the vagina
<i>labia majora</i>	The outer lips external to the vagina
<i>labia minora</i>	The inner lips external to the vagina
<i>laceration</i>	Tear, cut
<i>perineum</i>	The area dorsal to the pubic arch and ventral to the coccyx

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<i>posterior fourchette</i>	The tissue connecting the posterior labia minora, a common area of sexual assault injury
<i>sexual assault examiner or sexual assault forensic examiner</i>	A health care professional (physician, physician assistant, registered professional nurse, nurse practitioner) with specific sexual assault and forensic training, who examines and treats patients reporting sexual assault and testifies as needed. Note: certified sexual assault forensic examiners are those that have received training in NYS DOH-approved training programs, and have been certified by the NYS DOH as meeting all training and qualifications as a SAFE.
<i>swab</i>	Most often, a wooden stick with a cotton tip, used for the collection of biological material
<i>swab dryer</i>	An electric machine which expedites the process of drying swabs
<i>smear</i>	A glass slide, prepared with swabs and saturated with biological material
<i>Toluidine Blue dye</i>	A dye used to assist sexual assault examiners with identification and photodocumentation of injuries
<i>vagina</i>	Birth canal
<i>Wood's lamp</i>	An ultraviolet light source used to detect the presence of semen and other substances