



# Resources in Sexual Offence Medicine (SOM)

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For any resource, ensure you are using the most up to date version and please inform the FFLM if a resource is out-of-date, or any links are broken: [forensic.medicine@fflm.ac.uk](mailto:forensic.medicine@fflm.ac.uk).

Please also see the reading list for FFLM examinations.

## Legislation [legislation.gov.uk](http://legislation.gov.uk)

Please check that you are using the legislation relevant to your jurisdiction.

1. Police & Criminal Evidence (PACE) Act (1984)
2. Family Law Reform Act (1969)
3. Mental Health Act (1983 & 2007)
4. Access to Medical Reports Act (1988)
5. Children Act (1989) and (2004)
6. Access to Health Records Act (1990)
7. Criminal Procedure & Investigations Act (1996)
8. Data Protection Act (1998)
9. Human Rights Act (1998)
10. Sexual Offences Act (2003)
11. Female Genital Mutilation Act (2003)
12. Mental Capacity Act (2005)
13. Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006)
14. Care Act 2014
15. Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act (2009)
16. Sexual Offences (NI) Order (2008)
17. Protection of Children and Prevention of Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act (2005)
18. Protection of Freedoms Act (2012)
19. Police & Criminal Evidence (NI) Order 1989 (& Codes of Practice, 2007)
20. Domestic Abuse Act (2021) (all; s71 non-fatal strangulation and suffocation, and s72 and s74, extra-territorial jurisdiction)
21. Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (all, Part 3 covers non-fatal strangulation and suffocation)
22. Health and Care Act, 2022: Part 5, 'Virginity Testing and Hymenoplasty Offences, s136 onwards

## Other

1. [British Association for Sexual Health and HIV \(bashh.org\)](http://bashh.org) and [Guidelines HIV-PEP Guidance, March 2021](#)  
[Adult HIV testing, September 2020](#)  
[National Guidelines for the Management of Individuals Disclosing Sexual Violence in Sexual Health Services, December 2022](#)  
[National Guidelines for the Management for Viral Hepatitides, 2017](#)
2. British Medical Association (BMA)  
[Ethics Guidance – Seeking Consent](#)  
[Sexual offences and under 18-year-olds in Northern Ireland](#)
3. Caldicott Principles and Caldicott 2  
[The Information Governance Review](#)
4. [Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse](#)

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5. Centre for Social Justice  
[Unsafe Children: Driving up our Country's Response to Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation \(2021\)](#)
6. Chain of Evidence  
[Institute of Biomedical Science and Royal College of Pathologists: Guidance for handling medico-legal specimens and preserving the chain of evidence](#)
7. CHIVA  
[Chiva Post-Exposure Prophylaxis \(PEP\) Guidelines for children and adolescents \(updated November 2022\)](#)
8. a) Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)  
[Rape and Sexual Offences - Overview and index of 2021 updated guidance](#)  
[Same sex sexual violence and sexual violence involving a trans complainant or suspect/defendant - Toolkit for prosecutors](#)  
[Rape and Serious Sexual Offences \(RASSO\) 2025](#)  
  
CPS interim guidance, applies from 01 November 2020  
[Pre-Trial Therapy](#)  
[Non-fatal strangulation or non-fatal suffocation](#)  
[Rape and Sexual Offences - Chapter 8: Statutory Limitations on prosecution of offences committed abroad](#)  
  
b) [Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service \(COPFS\)](#)  
  
c) [Public Prosecution Service of Northern Ireland \(PPSNI\)](#)
9. Defence/Medical Indemnity Organisations
  - Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland
  - Medical Defence Union
  - Medical Protection Society
10. Department of Health and Social Care  
[Reference guide to consent for examination or treatment \(second edition\)](#)  
[SHARE: consent, confidentiality and information sharing in mental healthcare and suicide prevention](#)
11. Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault  
[Sexual assaults facilitated by drugs or alcohol | EMCDDA](#)  
[Guidelines for the Forensic analysis of drugs facilitating sexual assault and other criminal acts | UNODC](#)
12. [NHSE E-learning for Health](#)
13. [Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians Publications | FFLM](#)
14. [Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare \(FSRH\) FSRH Guidelines including Emergency Contraception](#)
15. [Forensic Science Regulator \(FSR\) Guidance: Statutory code of practice for forensic science activities \(April 2023\)](#)  
[The Control and Avoidance of Contamination in Forensic Medical Examinations FSR-G-207 \(2020\)](#)  
[Guidance for the assessment, collection and recording of forensic science related activities in sexual assault examination](#)
16. General Medical Council (GMC)  
[Decision making and consent \(2020\)](#)

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[Confidentiality \(2017\)](#) updated in 2018 for the Data Protection Act and General Data Protection Regulation

[0-18 years: guidance for all doctors \(2007\)](#)

17. [Health and Care Professions Council \(HCPC\)](#)

18. HM Government

[The End to End Rape Review on Findings and Actions](#)

19. [Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse \(IICSA\)](#)

The Inquiry has completed its work, (Autumn 2022) and published all the reports including Recommendations which are being considered by the Government.

20. [Institute for Addressing Strangulation \(IFAS\)](#)

21. [Prosecuting Sexual Offences | JUSTICE](#)

A report by JUSTICE (2019). Committee chaired by HH Peter Rook, QC

22. Mental Capacity Act and Checklist

[Mental Capacity Act Toolkit | BMA](#)

[Mental Capacity Act | NHS](#)

[Mental Capacity Act: Best Interests Principle | SCIE](#)

23. [Nursing and Midwifery Council \(NMC\)](#)

24. Police Recorded Crime

Office for National Statistics (ONS): Crime and Justice

[Crime in England and Wales: year ending December 2022](#)

[Sexual Offences in England and Wales overview: year ending March 2022](#)

[Sexual offences prevalence and victim characteristics: year ending March 2020](#)

[Sexual offending: victimisation and the path through the criminal justice system \(December 2018\)](#)

[Domestic Abuse in England and Wales overview: November 2022](#)

Northern Ireland: Sexual Offences Data within these publications

[Police Recorded Crime Statistics](#)

Scotland: Sexual Offences Data

[Sexual Crimes – Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2022 - 23](#)

25. Police

[How to report rape and sexual assault | Metropolitan Police](#)

[Monthly Crime Data New Cats | Tableau Public](#)

From here it is possible to look at data for different types of crime, including sexual offences. Most police forces will provide data on crimes for the area they cover.

College of Policing

[Rape and Sexual Offences](#)

[Operation Soteria Bluestone](#)

26. NHS England

[Records Management Code of Practice](#) (updated 2023)

[Corporate records retention and disposal schedule](#) (updated 2022)

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27. NHS England and Improvement (NHSE/I)  
[Sexual Assault and Abuse](#)  
[National Service Specification for Sexual Assault Referral Centres, 2023-2024](#)  
[Paediatric forensic healthcare practitioner capabilities framework for child sexual abuse assessment](#)
28. NHS Northern Ireland  
[Getting Help after Sexual Violence](#)
29. NHS Scotland  
[Rape and Sexual Assault](#)  
N.B. In Scotland the abbreviation, SARCS is for: Sexual Assault Response Coordination Service
30. [Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health \(RCPCH\)](#)  
[Service Specification for the clinical evaluation of children who may have been sexually abused](#)
31. Safeguarding:
  - [Safeguarding Children and Young People: Roles and Competencies for Healthcare Staff \(2019\) | Royal College of Nursing](#)
  - [Adult Safeguarding: Roles and Competencies for Health Care Staff \(2018\) | Royal College of Nursing](#)
32. St Mary's Centre, the Manchester SARC  
[Research | St Mary's Centre](#)
33. The Royal Society  
[Science and the Law](#)  
[Forensic DNA Analysis: A Primer for Courts \(2017\)](#)
34. Trauma informed Practice  
[Opening Doors: Trauma Informed Practice for the Workforce | NHS Education for Scotland](#)
35. Miscellaneous
  - i) Stern V. The Stern Review: A Report by Baroness Vivien Stern CBE of an Independent Review into How Rape Complaints are Handled by Public Authorities in England and Wales. London: Government Equalities Office and Home Office, 2010.  
[https://www.womensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Stern\\_Review\\_of\\_Rape\\_Reporting\\_1FINAL.pdf](https://www.womensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Stern_Review_of_Rape_Reporting_1FINAL.pdf)
  - ii) Kelly L, Lovett J, Regan L. A gap or a chasm: Attrition in reported rape cases. Home Office Research Study 293 (2005).  
<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20110218141141/http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hors293.pdf>
  - iii) Goddard A, et al. Review of Pathway following sexual assault for children and young people in London. (2015)  
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/london/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2015/03/review-pathway-cyp-london-report.pdf>
  - iv) Angiolini E. Report of the Independent Review into The Investigation and Prosecution of Rape in London. (2015)  
[https://www.cps.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/publications/dame\\_elish\\_angiolini\\_rape\\_review\\_2015.pdf](https://www.cps.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/publications/dame_elish_angiolini_rape_review_2015.pdf)
  - v) Houses of Parliament  
[Home Affairs Committee Report: Investigation and Prosecution of Rap, April 2022](#)

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- vi) [Prosecuting Sexual Offences: a report by JUSTICE](#)  
A report of the committee chaired by HH Peter Rook QC. 2019
- vii) [Medical colleges and unions call for inquiry over “shocking” levels of sexual assault in the NHS | The BMJ](#)
- viii) Women’s Rights Network  
Phoenix, J. *When we are at our most vulnerable*  
<https://www.womensrights.network/hospital-report>

### Text Books (Others are available)

	<p><b>Forensic Gynaecology (Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Advanced Skills) (2014)</b> M Dalton ISBN-10 1107064295</p>
	<p><b>Clinical Forensic Medicine: A Physicians Guide, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (2020)</b> M M Stark ISBN-10 3030294617</p>
	<p><b>Sexual Assault. A Forensic Clinician’s Practice Guide (2010)</b> C White <a href="https://www.stmaryscentre.org/professionals/forensic-clinicians-guide">https://www.stmaryscentre.org/professionals/forensic-clinicians-guide</a> ISBN 978-0-9564737-0-7</p>
	<p><b>Oxford Handbook of Forensic Medicine (2011)</b> JP Wyatt, T Squires, G Norfolk, J Payne-James ISBN 0199229945</p>
	<p>Physical signs of child sexual abuse - evidence-based review Royal College of Paediatrics &amp; Child Health <a href="https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/shop-publications/physical-signs-child-sexual-abuse-evidence-based-review">https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/shop-publications/physical-signs-child-sexual-abuse-evidence-based-review</a> N.B. This publication is under review and at the time of writing, publication is expected imminently, (September 2023).</p>