

# **A GUIDE TO NAVIGATING SUSPECTED DRUG-FACILITATED CRIME**

INFORMATION, PROTOCOL & SUPPORT



**INCLUDING CONSENT FORM, IMPORTANT NOTES  
AND HELPFUL INFORMATION ABOUT DFCS**

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## WHAT IS DRUG-FACILITATED CRIME?

Drug Facilitated Crime (DFC) occurs when a person intentionally and illegally places mind-altering substances in a victim's food or drink without their knowledge or consent. These drugs alter, impair, or significantly impact a victim's consciousness, memory, and ability to think, move, or respond.

Drugs used in these crimes are typically odorless, colorless, and tasteless when placed in a drink or food item. Within 30 minutes of ingestion, victims may struggle to talk or move and may lose consciousness.

In South Carolina, it is both a criminal act and a felony to cause such harm to individuals. You have options for moving forward. This booklet shares guidance, giving you choices and clarity that may help you make decisions for your health and safety.

SC Code 16-3-75: It is unlawful for a person to maliciously tamper with a human drug product or food item with the intent to do bodily harm to a person. A person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned not more than 20 years.

# YOUR HEALTH IS IMPORTANT

Your health and safety is our **primary focus**. The options listed here for next steps are designed to keep you safe and healthy, determine what substance was used to drug you and bring the perpetrator(s) to justice.

Being drugged is a crime, and regardless of what you were doing before the drugging took place, it is not your fault. You are not responsible for someone else's criminal behavior.

Your privacy matters.

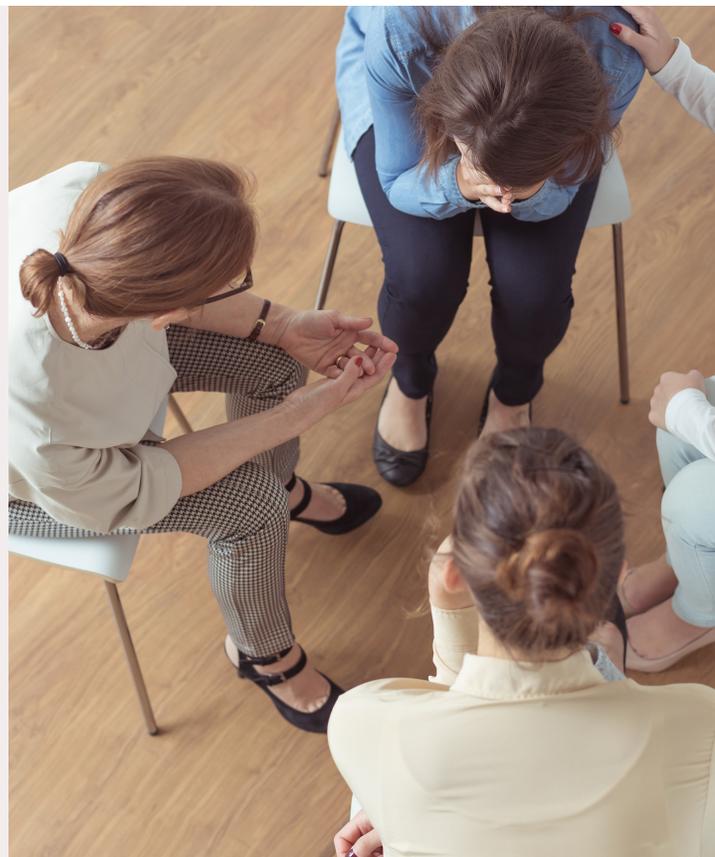
If you are over the age of 18, your parents and/or guardians do not have to be notified.

Two costs are associated with the **Green Screen Kit**. (1) The cost of processing the contents of your Green Screen (blood and urine). This cost is covered by SLED. (2) The cost of your hospital visit. The hospital can bill this to your insurance. If you do not have insurance, other options for payment are available to you. Call us for more information.

## YOU ARE NOT ALONE

*During this process, you may work with a number of professionals trained to help you, including: medical personnel, advocates, and law enforcement.*

*You may also have one support person (friend or family) with you at the hospital.*



# WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

To best serve you, we've created a standard of care for drug-facilitated crime that works collaboratively between multiple agencies. In addition to healthcare providers, law enforcement can play an important role in the process of caring for victims of drug-facilitated crime.

**Unless you are a minor, the hospital staff will not report to the police without your consent or that of your health care provider.**

The hospital can contact law enforcement to come assist you and document your experience in an incident report. They will bring with them a SLED DFC (B/U) kit which hospital personnel will use to collect blood and urine samples.

**Your incident report can be used to open an investigation and the samples collected will be taken by law enforcement to a crime lab and screened to determine what drug was used against you.**

If you wish, law enforcement can also help to make sure you make it back home safely or you can ask a friend or relative to come get you to ensure you make it home safely. Your health and safety should come first.

***Remember, none of this is your fault.***

# WHAT DO I SHARE

## Victim Statement

The police may ask you questions about what happened to you. These questions are to help them understand where you were when the crime occurred, what your experience was like, and what happened as a result so they can begin an investigation. In many cases of DFC, remembering what happened can be extremely difficult. That is normal and it is okay.

## Witness Statements

Because of memory difficulties in these cases, law enforcement may also request to speak with any witnesses. Witnesses can include your friends, employees from a bar, even EMS staff who may have seen the change in your consciousness or behavior. These conversations can help law enforcement establish a timeline and pinpoint when you may have been drugged.

## Incident Report

The responding officer will write a report documenting everything about the incident they've learned. That incident report is extremely important for your records and can be obtained by request at the police station. The report will include your case number and other pertinent information that will be helpful as you consider next steps.





# WHAT HAPPENS AT THE HOSPITAL

## Evidence Collection

The evidence of a DFC is left inside of your body. To collect the evidence, the emergency department will collect blood and urine samples. To conduct a urine drug screen/test, you will be asked to urinate into a small container to be taken to the lab. It is quick and easy. Urine screens are the most common method of drug testing and can detect the presence of drugs for up to 120 hours.

For a blood drug screen, a health care professional will take a blood sample from a vein in your arm, using a small needle and collect it into a test tube or vial up to 48 hours after the incident.

## Consent for Toxicology Screening

What happens next is up to you. A health care professional must have your permission to give your blood and urine samples to law enforcement to take to the lab for drug screening. It is important to know that you are not being charged or investigated in any way. Toxicology screening is the only way to know and document what type of substance may have been used in this crime and can significantly help with the investigative process.

## Where the Samples Go

Law enforcement officers will take the samples to the SLED (South Carolina Law Enforcement Division) Crime Lab to be tested for potential substances. SLED will notify the investigating agency of your case of the results. *In order to obtain these results, contact your responding officer or the detective assigned to your case.* Processing the Green Screen and getting results may take several weeks.

## Get Home Safely

Once you are ready to leave the hospital you can always ride home with a friend or family member. You can also be escorted by law enforcement. The most important thing is that you feel comfortable and are able to get home safely.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## Keeping Track of It All

Below is an area for listing important details about your case and the people who will be helping you. Please use this space to write their names, contact information and any other important reminders so you can ask questions and follow up as needed.

### Incident Response Details

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Responding Officer

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Police Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Incident Report/Case # Retrieval at: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Investigator

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Case Number Assigned: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Health Care Providers

Physician Name \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

On-call Nurse Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Additional Notes

- Remember to contact your responding officer or assigned detective to get your case number as well as the results of your Green Screen. SLED only provides test results to these individuals.

# COLLABORATING FOR GOOD

## Your Voice Matters

Each agency has a role to play in supporting you, guiding you towards safety, and preserving the options for the pursuit of justice. You are your best advocate. Sometimes it is not easy to speak up or you may feel too anxious to do so.

If that is the case and you want someone to help, please let us know at (803) 317-7277 or [team@sassgo.org](mailto:team@sassgo.org). We are here for you and will answer your call or get back to you quickly.



## Sexual Assault

If you are concerned, suspect, or believe that you were sexually assaulted, it is important to request a forensic exam while at the hospital. A trained Forensic Nurse Examiner can collect evidence from your body, clothes, and other personal belongings. The forensic exam preserves evidence, documents your experience, and provides you with important medical care.

You do not have to press charges to have the exam done, but an incident report will need to be made with law enforcement. This process of documentation provides you with the opportunity to safely store evidence should you decide to press charges at a later time.

It is important to know that clothing arrangement is not an indicator of whether or not a sexual assault has occurred. Whether fully or partially dressed after a drug-facilitated crime, if you are concerned about or suspect sexual assault, a forensic exam can and should be done.

## Local Resources

State Office of Victim Assistance, Department of Crime Victim Compensation

Website: <http://sova.sc.gov/>

Phone: 1-800-220-5370

Email: [DCVC@scag.gov](mailto:DCVC@scag.gov)

Pathways to Healing

Website: [www.pathwaystohealing.com](http://www.pathwaystohealing.com)

Phone: 803-771-7273

SASS Go

Website: [www.sassgo.org](http://www.sassgo.org)

Phone: 803-317-7277

Email: [team@sassgo.org](mailto:team@sassgo.org)



Blood samples may be collected up to 48 hours and urine samples up to 120 hours after the suspected drug-facilitated crime occurred. Results are expected within 30 days of submission. Contact the assisting officer for your results.

### IMPAIRING SUBSTANCES CONSENT FORM

I hereby voluntarily consent and authorize \_\_\_\_\_ and its authorized agents to obtain a sample of my blood and/or urine for testing and/or analysis to determine whether there are any impairing substances present therein.

This authorization is valid from the date of my/my representative's signature below.

**Directions**

- 1. List collection site above in space provided in the first sentence.
- 2. Patient signs, dates, prints name and number below.
- 3. If patient is unable to sign, a representative signs, dates, prints, and gives title below.
- 4. Witness signs, dates, prints name and title below.
- 5. Scan form into hospital system.
- 6. Hand original document to Officer responsible for patient's Drug Facilitated Crime (DFC) Kit.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient Printed Name & Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Printed Name & Title (Guardian/Responsible Adult/Attending)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Printed Name & Title