



## Qualified Medical Provider

# Continuing Education & Competency Attestation Frequently Asked Questions

Illinois Attorney General Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program

### Continuing Education (CE) Requirement

**Q: Why is continuing education (CE) required?**

**A:** Section 15(c) of SASETA requires verification of continuing education and competency.

**Q: How many CE hours are needed in 2026?**

**A:** A total of 10 CE hours is required during the 2026 CE cycle, with 3 CE hours focused on Annual Priority Topics and the remaining 7 CE hours completed through additional education relevant to caring for individuals impacted by sexual violence.

**Q: Who is required to complete the 10 CE hours in 2026?**

**A:** The 2026 CE cycle requirement applies only to Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) and Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFEs) who are practicing as Qualified Medical Providers (QMPs) in Illinois as of January 1, 2026.

**Q: When does the standard CE Cycle begin?**

**A:** The standard 3-year CE cycle begins January 1, 2027. It will run January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> every three years based on the QMP's approval year.

**Standard CE Cycles:**

QMP's Approval Year	CE Cycle	CE Attestation Submission Deadline
2027	2027-2029	April 30 <sup>th</sup> 2030
2028	2028-2030	April 30 <sup>th</sup> 2031
2029	2029-2031	April 30 <sup>th</sup> 2032

**Q: How many CE hours are required during the 3-year CE cycle?**

**A:** A total of 30 CE hours is required over the 3-year cycle. Providers are encouraged to complete 10 CE hours each year, with 3 CE hours focused on Annual Priority Topics and the remaining 7 CE hours completed through elective education relevant to caring for individuals impacted by sexual violence.

**Q: Who can attest that the QMP has completed the CE requirement?**

**A:** The QMP's SANE Coordinator, Emergency Department Director, or the director of the facility where the health care professional is employed.

**Q: Does the CE have to be accredited?**

**A:** No. Accreditation is preferred but not required.

**Q: Do I have to submit certificates for my CE training?**

**A:** No. You are only required to submit the attestation form and activity log. However, it is strongly recommended that you maintain copies of certificates and training agendas for your personal records.



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### **Q: What are Annual Priority Topics?**

**A:** Annual Priority Topics are key education areas identified as recommended yearly CE content.

- Designated Annual Priority Topics include:
  - Trauma-informed care & communication skills
  - Vicarious trauma & professional wellness
  - Mandatory reporting requirements

### **Q: What education counts towards elective CE?**

**A:** Elective education may be earned through education relevant to caring for individuals impacted by sexual violence. Eligible education may include simulation-based learning, clinical skills development, and other structured learning activities.

- Educational topics may include:
  - Non-fatal strangulation
  - SANE testimony
  - Injury identification and documentation
  - Human trafficking
  - Evidence collection
  - Crime lab analysis

### **Q: Does a valid IAFN Certification meet the CE requirement?**

**A:** Yes. A valid IAFN SANE-A or SANE-P certification may be used in lieu of completing CE hours.

### **Q: What if I become certified mid-cycle?**

**A:** A valid IAFN certification meets the CE requirement even when it was obtained mid-cycle.

### **Q: If I become a QMP during 2026, can I apply CE completed in 2026 to my CE cycle that begins in 2027?**

**A:** No. CE completed in 2026 cannot be applied to the 2027-2029 CE cycle. While completing CE is always encouraged, CE hours must be earned within the provider's CE cycle to ensure ongoing learning throughout each cycle.

### **Q: Can I use CE hours earned while completing my clinical log toward my first CE cycle?**

**A:** Yes. CE hours completed during your QMP approval year may be applied towards the first year of your CE cycle.



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#### Annual Competency Requirement

**Q: What if a QMP has not performed a medical forensic examination in more than a year?**

**A:** If the QMP goes 12 consecutive months without performing a medical forensic examination, a mock medical forensic examination must be completed to satisfy the annual competency requirement.

**Q: If I have a valid IAFN SANE certification, do I still need to meet the annual competency requirement?**

**A:** Yes, a valid IAFN SANE certification does not meet the annual competency requirement.

**Q: Who can attest that the QMP has completed the annual competency requirement?**

**A:** The QMP's SANE Coordinator, Emergency Department Director, or the director of the facility where the health care professional is employed.

**Q: Who must precept a mock medical forensic examination used to satisfy the annual competency requirement?**

**A:** A mock medical forensic examination used to satisfy the annual competency requirement must be precepted by a SANE certified by the International Association of Forensic Nurses (SANE-A or SANE-P), based on the population the QMP is qualified to care for.

- If the QMP is qualified to care for adult/adolescent patients, the mock exam must be precepted by a SANE-A.
- If the QMP is qualified to care for pediatric/adolescent patients, the mock exam must be precepted by a SANE-P.
- If the QMP is qualified to care for both populations, the mock exam may be precepted by either a SANE-A or a SANE-P.

#### Both Requirements

**Q: What happens after I submit my attestation forms?**

**A:** If attestation forms are submitted by attestation submission deadline, the Illinois Attorney General SANE Program Coordinator will review the documentation and provide formal notice by June 30<sup>th</sup> of the same year indicating whether the requirement was met.

**Q: What happens if my attestation submission is incomplete or does not meet the requirements?**

**A:** If your submission is incomplete or does not meet the requirements, you will receive a written notice identifying the specific deficiencies and the standards that must be met. You will have 30 days from the date the notice is sent to correct the deficient submission. If you do not meet the required standards within the 30-day period, you will receive follow-up notice of removal from the Qualified Medical Provider List.



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**Q: What happens if I do not submit my attestation forms for CE and competency by the attestation submission deadline?**

**A:** If you do not submit your CE and competency documentation by the attestation submission deadline, you will receive a written notice stating that you will be removed from the Qualified Medical Provider List in 60 days.

**Q: What if I was deficient and did not submit my attestation documentation by the attestation submission deadline, and then failed to provide the required documentation after receiving the 60-day notice, which then resulted in being removed from the Qualified Medical Provider List?**

**A:** If the individual wishes to remain on the Qualified Medical Provider List, an individualized action plan will be created between the QMP and the Illinois Attorney General SANE Program Coordinator.