



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 30, 2019

The Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence warns Ohio universities of the predatory and potentially damaging practices of MeTooKit.com

It has come to our attention that universities and related institutions may be targeted by this business offering “the first ever at-home sexual assault kit”. OAESV warns against the use of this or similar items. It is unfortunate that this company is attempting to market this product to profit from survivors of sexual assault, especially when federal guidelines under VAWA mandate that any state that receives funding cannot charge survivors for the sexual assault forensic exam.

Most importantly, the practice suggested is not survivor-centered. Relying upon a survivor to conduct their own sexual assault forensic examination following a traumatic event places an unfair amount of responsibility on the survivor, which could lead to additional traumatization.

Additionally, the practice is not legally sound. Our legal team believes that the results of an at-home kit would not be admissible under the rules of evidence in State or Federal Courts. No prosecutor would have the ability to use the results of this item in any case. Law enforcement, prosecution teams, and medical professionals are continually and extensively trained in proper sexual assault forensic examination procedures.

The practice suggested by metookit.com would also fail to provide a number of resources in the aftermath of an assault. Sexual assault forensic examinations are provided by medical professionals through the Office of the Attorney General’s SAFE program at hospitals in Ohio. There are a number of benefits of receiving the evaluation at the hospital, even beyond generating accurate forensic testing results. In the hospital setting, survivors are medically cleared by professionals before the exam is conducted—a crucial step to addressing other injuries that survivors may suffer. Hospitals also have the ability to provide necessary STI and HIV prophylaxis treatments and many provide access or referral to emergency contraception free of charge. Finally, a hospital can provide timely access to an advocate for emotional support.

We believe that this practice and product offered by metookit.com could be harmful to survivors, and we do not support it. The [International Association of Forensic Nurses](#) and the [Campus Advocacy & Prevention Professionals Association](#) have released similar statements.

For questions, please write us at info@oesv.org.

Thank you,

The Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence

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