



INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
**Forensic
Nurses**

ForensicNurses.org

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Statement by
Jennifer Pierce-Weeks, BSN, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P
Chief Executive Officer
on the
Termination of Federal Grant Funding
April 25, 2025

On April 22, 2025, the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) received a notice of termination of a multi-year grant from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC).

The focus of this award was to provide training and technical assistance to sexual assault and forensic nursing programs caring for victims of child sexual abuse, sexual assault, trafficking, and intimate partner violence to ensure trauma-informed, evidence-based, patient-centered care. This included working with communities to establish four forensic nursing Centers of Excellence where hundreds of nurses and other providers would have received clinical experience caring for patients who have experienced these traumas.

Despite evidence that forensic nursing programs improve patient outcomes, reduce long-term health consequences of violence, strengthen community responses, and enhance criminal justice outcomes, only 25% of U.S. hospitals currently maintain these essential services.

This loss of funding will result in the elimination of six staff positions at IAFN by late May, significantly impacting our capacity to expand access to forensic nursing care, particularly in underserved and marginalized communities where patients are most vulnerable.

IAFN remains deeply committed to our mission of ensuring all survivors have access to specialized forensic nursing care. We express our gratitude to our dedicated staff, thousands of members, partners, contractors, and vendors, whose collaboration has been invaluable to our work.

We will continue advocating for the critical role of forensic nurses in survivor-centered care while exploring alternative funding sources to sustain these essential programs.

The International Association of Forensic Nurses is a professional organization of 6,000 nurses who provide specialized healthcare for patients impacted by violence. The Association establishes the standards of practice for forensic nursing; defines and advances the global research agenda to enhance forensic nursing's evidence-based response; develops, promotes, and disseminates information about forensic nursing science; and serves as a global network for forensic nurses to exchange ideas, serve as mentors, and enhance their practice. For more information, visit forensicnurses.org.

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