

# IAFN Restructure and Dissolution

March 16, 2026

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## Introduction

Throughout the past couple of years, IAFN has faced a multitude of challenges. The landscape for nonprofits, professional membership associations, and healthcare in general is both challenging and multifaceted. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, organizational costs have risen by over 24% while other funding sources have shifted dramatically. IAFN is not alone in this. Membership decline, operational challenges, including the impact of fraud at the hands of a former employee, and changes in federal funding patterns – with an unexpected termination of our largest federal grant by the administration last year - have coalesced to put IAFN in an unsustainable financial position.

Over several months, the Board of Directors conducted a rigorous, mission-driven process to evaluate IAFN's long-term future. We began with financial sustainability modeling and strategic options analysis, then assessed potential partners, completed due diligence on the selected partners, and negotiated terms designed to protect IAFN's legacy and the interests of our members.

The Board examined a range of scenarios: continuing independently with significant structural changes, pursuing various partnership models, and exploring potential mergers with several organizations. Every option was measured against our core mission priorities — maintaining program quality, preserving the member community, ensuring certification integrity, and advancing the field of forensic nursing.

Throughout this process, we took a clear-eyed look at IAFN's financial position, membership trends, operational capacity, and the evolving needs of the field. After exhausting every alternative, the Board concluded that dissolution — executed through carefully structured program transfers — was the only path that could fully protect IAFN's mission, its members, and the future of forensic nursing. Our goal was singular: to ensure that forensic nursing has the strongest possible institutional home for the future.

IAFN will dissolve as a legal entity following the completion of our program transfers. The Board made this decision deliberately and with the mission at the forefront — by transferring its programs, community, and assets, IAFN ensures that forensic nurses continue to have a professional home and that patients continue to have access to expert forensic nursing care.

Below is a summary of the Program Transfers. Together, these arrangements reflect IAFN's commitment to leaving nothing essential behind — ensuring that every pillar of the forensic nursing profession has a trusted institutional home.

## Emergency Nurses Association

The **Emergency Nurses Association (ENA)** will assume stewardship of IAFN's full membership infrastructure. Current IAFN members will transition to ENA membership, gaining access to ENA's full suite of member benefits, professional networks, and community platforms. ENA will also take ownership of IAFN's complete education catalog, including all programs, courses, webinars, presentations, podcasts, guidelines and toolkits. All copyrighted works — including white papers, books, manuals, handbooks, and charts — as well as any other intellectual property used in connection with IAFN's offerings, products, and services will transfer in full, ensuring the breadth of IAFN's educational contribution to forensic nursing remains intact and accessible.

The transition of IAFN education and members into ENA's community and program portfolio is expected to take place through a multi-phased process managed by ENA staff. A transition team recently began meeting to map out what is needed internally to successfully integrate these new members into the ENA community an initial focus. Using IAFN's vast portfolio as a baseline, ENA is also taking a close look at how to best incorporate forensic nursing into its resources, education and programs.

ENA is committed to providing periodic updates as the transition team and ENA staff finalize and implement plans. Additional information will be provided during the March 25 Virtual Town Hall which will include IAFN leaders. IAFN members received an invitation to register for the town hall on March 11.

Questions and comments can be sent to [forensicnursing@ena.org](mailto:forensicnursing@ena.org). Updated information will be added to the ENA website later this month.

## American Nurses Credentialing Center

IAFN's forensic nursing certification programs will transition to the **American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)**, safeguarding the integrity and portability of credentials held by certified forensic nurses nationwide.

In the coming months, ANCC will embark on an evaluation of the certification programs and ultimately determine next steps for individuals interested in pursuing certification, or in need of renewing certification they have already achieved.

More information coming in the next few weeks.

## Wolters Kluwer Publishing

The *Journal of Forensic Nursing* will continue publication under **Wolters Kluwer**, preserving the field's premier peer-reviewed research outlet and protecting the scholarly record that forensic nursing practitioners and researchers depend on.

More information coming in the next few weeks.

## Information for the IAFN Patron

### Certification

IAFN has offered the SANE-A® and SANE-P® board certification programs since 2002 and 2007, respectively, with 1,970 SANE-A and 866 SANE-P certificants throughout the United States, Canada, and Ireland. In 2024, we embarked on the road to an intimate partner violence certification program (IPV-C™) with a plan to launch the initial beta test of the IPV-C examination in April of 2026. These programs, regardless of their stage of development and implementation, will be owned by ANCC.

SANE-A® and SANE-P® certificants who were due to expire in 2026 have been extended through the calendar year 2027, and now hold an expiration date of 12/31/2027.

**To download and save a copy of your credentials, please read and follow the instructions in the “Critical Steps” section of this document no later than April 1, 2026 if you are or have been a certificant.**

### Education

IAFN has provided online and in-person education throughout the years to support the practice of forensic nurses, including the International Conference on Forensic Nursing Science and Practice. ENA will take ownership of IAFN's complete education catalog, including all programs, courses, webinars, presentations, podcasts, and workshops, along with all related content, materials, and author and speaker agreements licensing the rights in those materials. All copyrighted works — including white papers, books, manuals, handbooks, and charts — as well as any other intellectual property used in connection with IAFN's offerings, products, and services will transfer in full, ensuring the breadth of IAFN's educational contribution to forensic nursing remains intact and accessible.

IAFN patrons with open courses in the online learning system **must complete their coursework by April 1, 2026 to receive credit.** No exceptions.

**Please read and follow the instructions in the “Critical Steps” section of this document no later than April 1, 2026 if you have open courses in the IAFN’s online learning system.**

## IAFN’s Approvership/Continuing Education Program (CE)

Any individual or organization that applied for contact hours in nursing through the IAFN Approvership program cannot continue offering CE in that manner. Any approved activity under IAFN’s Approvership program must be complete, with all documentation submitted no later than April 1, 2026.

The Emergency Nurses Association is accredited as an approver of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.

The ENA Approver Unit reviews and approves nursing continuing professional development activities. Through a peer review process, ENA evaluates the quality and appropriateness of educational activities that are of benefit to emergency nurses. For more information, visit [www.ena.org/cne-application](http://www.ena.org/cne-application) or contact [cne@ena.org](mailto:cne@ena.org).

## Course Seal of Approval

If you obtained a formal IAFN “Seal of Approval” for your didactic SANE course, that approval remains in effect through April 1, 2026. After that date, the Seal may no longer be used.

## Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) Clinical Skills Lab (CSL)

IAFN’s SAFE Clinical Skills Lab Curriculum will be transferred to ENA as a program asset. ENA will determine what next steps regarding the curriculum will be.

## Membership

ENA will assume stewardship of IAFN’s full membership infrastructure. Current IAFN members will transition to ENA membership, gaining access to ENA’s full suite of member benefits, professional networks, and community platforms.

## Grants

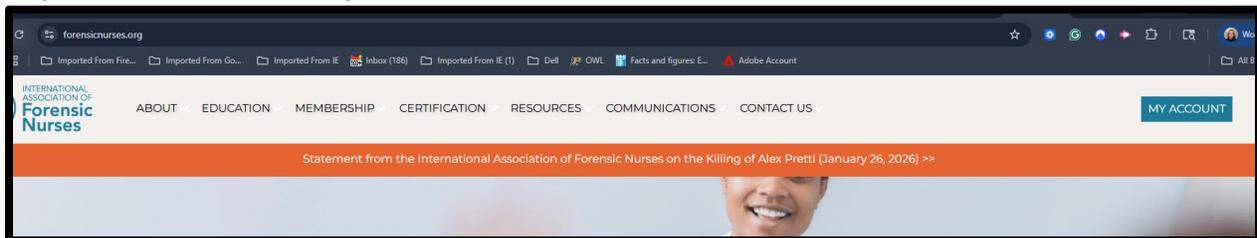
In keeping with the rest of the dissolution plan, IAFN has made the decision to voluntarily terminate its remaining three federal grant awards. Two with the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) and one with the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW).

All resources developed in conjunction with the OVC projects, including the TeleSAFE Toolkit and a variety of educational offerings and video productions developed under OVC awards will be transferred to OVC. OVC will determine how those tools and resources will be utilized moving forward.

The resources and educational offerings developed under the OVW Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Technical Assistance (SAFEta), including all the data from the [www.safeta.org](http://www.safeta.org) website, will transfer ownership to ENA.

## Critical Steps for Patrons of Education and Certification

Login to [forensicnurses.org](http://forensicnurses.org)



If you hold certification, go to “Certifications” “My Certifications”



Your certifications list will appear. Click on the Certification name under Program

#	Certification Date	Program	Expiration Date	Status
454	10/21/22	SANE-P®	12/31/28	Active
1882	11/12/23	SANE-A®	12/31/27	Active

From here you will be able to choose the option “Print Certificate”

### My Certification

[PRINT CERTIFICATE](#)
[VIEW ALL MY CERTIFICATIONS](#)
[CERTIFICATION PROGRAM HOME](#)

Certification #454

Program: SANE-P®      Certification Date: 10/21/22

Save the certificate (Horizontal/Landscape format is best) as a pdf in your own computer files. Do this for each of your certifications so you have record of them.

If you have completed courses in IAFN’s online learning center, login as outlined above, and go to EDUCATION, Online Learning Center

HOME ACCOUNT **EDUCATION** MY MEMBERSHIP EVENTS CERTIFICATIONS COMMUNITY ONLINE SUPPORT AWARDS & NOMINATIONS SU

Online Learning Center

Jennif

Go to “My courses” on the left side menu

IAFN.org Education Membership Certification


**MEDICAL FORENSIC PHOTOGRAPHY**

Join us for six self-paced, interactive courses to help you integrate medical best practices into your curriculum.

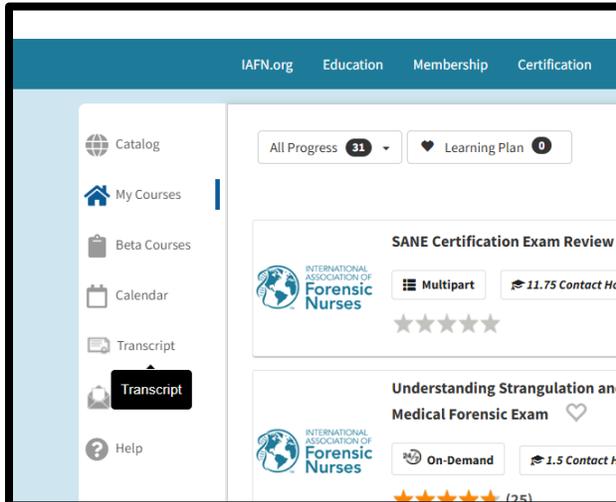
**ENROLL**

Search ...

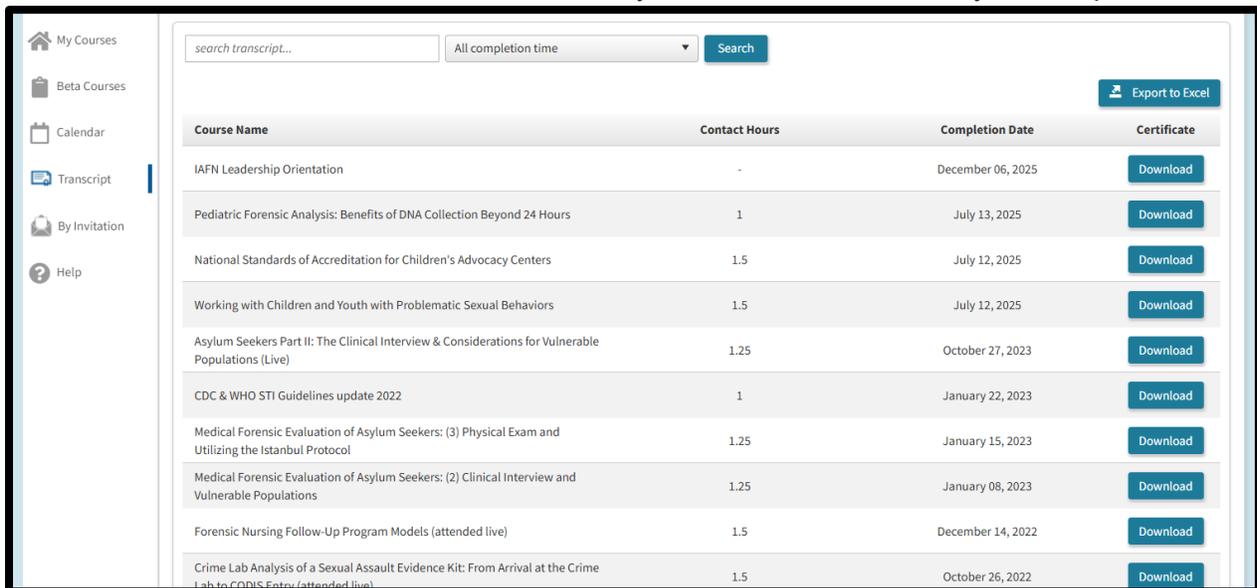
**Sexual Assault**      **General Forensic Nursing**      **Categories**  
 select Sexual Assault      select General Forensic ...      select Categories

Quick Links

Finish any coursework that is incomplete no later than April 1, 2026 at 5PM Eastern.  
Go to “Transcripts” on the left side menu



Here you will see a list of completed coursework, and on the right-hand side you can download each of the certificates. Download all of them for your records and save on your computer



Course Name	Contact Hours	Completion Date	Certificate
IAFN Leadership Orientation	-	December 06, 2025	<a href="#">Download</a>
Pediatric Forensic Analysis: Benefits of DNA Collection Beyond 24 Hours	1	July 13, 2025	<a href="#">Download</a>
National Standards of Accreditation for Children's Advocacy Centers	1.5	July 12, 2025	<a href="#">Download</a>
Working with Children and Youth with Problematic Sexual Behaviors	1.5	July 12, 2025	<a href="#">Download</a>
Asylum Seekers Part II: The Clinical Interview & Considerations for Vulnerable Populations (Live)	1.25	October 27, 2023	<a href="#">Download</a>
CDC & WHO STI Guidelines update 2022	1	January 22, 2023	<a href="#">Download</a>
Medical Forensic Evaluation of Asylum Seekers: (3) Physical Exam and Utilizing the Istanbul Protocol	1.25	January 15, 2023	<a href="#">Download</a>
Medical Forensic Evaluation of Asylum Seekers: (2) Clinical Interview and Vulnerable Populations	1.25	January 08, 2023	<a href="#">Download</a>
Forensic Nursing Follow-Up Program Models (attended live)	1.5	December 14, 2022	<a href="#">Download</a>
Crime Lab Analysis of a Sexual Assault Evidence Kit: From Arrival at the Crime Lab to CODIS Entry (attended live)	1.5	October 26, 2022	<a href="#">Download</a>

All downloads must be complete by April 1, 2026.

These documents will NOT be retrievable at any future time, so please ensure you retain your own copies.

## Contact Information/Future Correspondence

### ANCC

More information coming in the next few weeks.

### ENA

Questions and comments can be sent to [forensicnursing@ena.org](mailto:forensicnursing@ena.org). Updated information will be added to the ENA website later this month.

### IAFN

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Through April 30, 2026

Look for updated information at this [link](#) through April 30, 2026

### Wolters Kluwer Publishing

More information coming in the next few weeks.