



Testifying: Expert Opinions

After the clinician testifies about the details of the medical forensic exam and evidence collection, the prosecutor will typically ask the clinician's opinions relative to injury, semen, and other evidence collection, and the victim-patient's demeanor as it relates to trauma.

It is essential for the clinician to discuss their opinions with the prosecutor prior to testifying because the clinician cannot opine about the victim's credibility or whether a sexual assault occurred.

However, the clinician can testify about the presence or absence of injuries or semen and explain whether they would expect to find such evidence based on their expertise and what the victim reported. Likewise, the clinician can testify whether certain injuries are consistent with penetration and/or sexual assault, whether the clinician would anticipate physical injury based upon the history provided by the patient, and if certain behaviors are consistent with trauma.

