

**Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine**

# Sexual offences: PRE-PUBERTAL complainants

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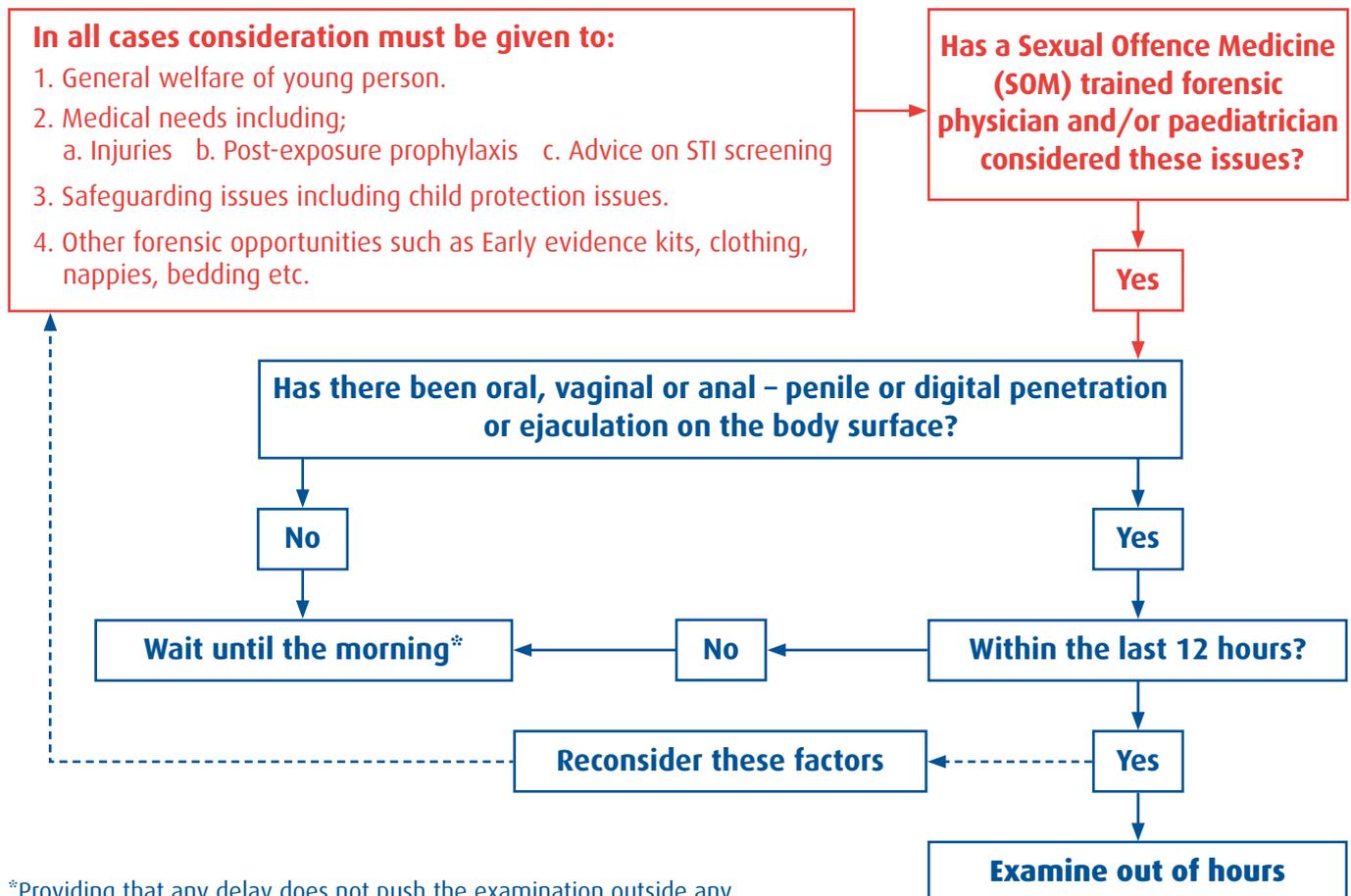
The medico-legal guidelines and recommendations published by the Faculty are for general information only. Appropriate specific advice should be sought from your medical defence organisation or professional association. The Faculty has one or more senior representatives of the MDOs on its Board, but for the avoidance of doubt, endorsement of the medico-legal guidelines or recommendations published by the Faculty has not been sought from any of the medical defence organisations.

**This flow chart must only be used after consideration of the following:**

The flowchart is for the use of forensic physicians and paediatricians.  
 It is intended to help the decision making process when deciding if a forensic medical examination is warranted in 'child-unfriendly' hours, or can wait and be done during the day.  
 It is intended that it is only a guide. Decisions must be made on a case-by-case basis as to whether an earlier examination is required, with consideration given to external factors as necessary.

Wherever there is doubt, a discussion should take place between the referring party (usually the investigating officer), the forensic physician on call and/or paediatrician, as appropriate.  
 It is also important to consider who holds parental responsibility for the child or young person.

**The needs of the child should always be paramount.**



\*Providing that any delay does not push the examination outside any of the maximum time frames for relevant forensic samples as per the most recent FFLM Recommendations for the collection of forensic specimens from complainants and suspects.