

Cabell County Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Commission Service Plan

Local Board/SART Overview

To meet SAFE Commission standards, Cabell County has formalized a coordinated response through the creation of a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) serving as the local board convened specifically to meet the SAFE Commission's guidelines. Members of this local coordinated response collaboration include:

- Cabell Huntington Hospital
- Marshall University
- Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- CONTACT Rape Crisis Center
- Huntington Police Department
- St. Mary's Medical Center

The local board/SART meets/plans to meet every third Wednesday of the month with the intent to:

- ☒ Share information and resources
- ☒ Identify gaps in the service delivery system
- ☒ Increased awareness on issues of sexual assault and stalking in the community
- ☒ Increase victim and community safety
- ☒ Develop professional relationships and an understanding of varying roles and responsibilities of first responders
- ☒ Develop, implement, and review county protocol to meet legislative requirements of the SAFE Commission

ADVOCACY PROTOCOL

OVERVIEW

A victim advocate provides free, confidential and non-judgmental emotional support, information, social service referrals and guidance following a sexual assault. A victim advocate's involvement will begin at the time the victim reports the sexual assault and extend beyond the point when other agencies have

terminated their involvement. A victim advocate offers the victim the support needed to understand what is happening and make informed decisions.

Services can only be provided by trained advocates who have received a minimum of 32 hours of specific sexual assault advocacy training that meets the training standards established by the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services <http://www.fris.org/>.¹

[Note: In cases of child abuse perpetrated against an adolescent as defined by WV law, the local Child Advocacy Center may also be contacted for support and or medical forensic services.]

The following seven advocacy services meet core service standards. The following services exist in our county:

- ☒ 24/7 advocacy, support, and accompaniment during the medical forensic exam, law enforcement investigations and court proceedings
- ☒ Information for victims about reporting/not reporting to law enforcement
- ☒ Crisis intervention and/or emotional support to victims and their families
- ☒ Referrals and coordinated services with other agencies
- ☒ Support for victims through the criminal justice system
- ☒ Replacement clothing for victims after medical forensic exams, if needed
- ☒ Protection of victim privacy and confidentiality

Advocacy services for adolescent/adult victims are provided by CONTACT Rape Crisis Center (CRCC), which will provide services to our county.

- CONTACT Rape Crisis Center Victim Advocates may be reached by medical, law enforcement, or emergency services staff, or by victims directly, through CONTACT's 24-hour hotline at 304-399-1111, 1-866-399-7273.

^[1] In cases of child abuse perpetrated against an adolescent as defined by WV law, the local Child Advocacy Center may also be contacted for support and/or forensic services.

- The advocate should be called as soon as the victim presents at Cabell Huntington Medical Center (CHMC) or St. Mary's Medical Center (SMMC) and discloses that they have been sexually assaulted.
- Intake staff at CHMC or SMMC should contact the advocate as soon as the patient discloses that they have been sexually assaulted.
- CONTACT victim Advocates will arrive at CHMC or SMMC within 30 minutes of receiving the call and stay until the victim leaves the hospital or no longer requests advocacy services.

First responders will be informed of this Advocacy Protocol by:

Distribute printed and digital copies of the Cabell County SART Protocol and SAFE Plan to member agencies, and meet annually in September to develop, implement, and review county protocol to meet legislative requirements of the SAFE commission.

Goal: Implement SAFE/SART protocol quarterly staff training at the member agencies to accommodate employee churn and to incorporate the SAFE/SART protocol into onboarding for new employees.

Phone number of Rape Crisis Center to Activate Protocol:

CONTACT of Huntington 304-399-1111 or 1-866-399-7273

MEDICAL FORENSIC PROTOCOL

OVERVIEW

Medical forensic services are provided by medical facilities located in our county:

Cabell Huntington Hospital
1340 Hal Greet Boulevard
Huntington, WV 25701
304-562-2000

St. Mary's Medical Center
2900 1st Avenue
Huntington, WV 25702
304-526-1234

Medical forensic exams are provided by Physicians and SANEs.

- SANEs are available on-call 24/7.
- Physicians are available on-call 24/7.

First responders will be informed of this Medical Forensic Protocol by:

Distribute printed and digital copies of the Cabell County SART Protocol and SAFE Plan to member agencies, and meet annually in September to develop, implement, and review county protocol to meet legislative requirements of the SAFE commission.

Goal: Implement SAFE/SART protocol quarterly staff training at the member agencies to accommodate employee churn and to incorporate the SAFE/SART protocol into onboarding for new employees.

Phone number to Activate Medical Forensic Protocol:

Cabell Huntington Hospital – 304-526-2200

St. Mary's Medical Center – 304-526-1111

TRANSPORTATION PROTOCOL

OVERVIEW

The SAFE Commission requires that this transportation protocol must include the following four core components:

1. Accessible transportation, including the ability to transport victims with disabilities
 2. Transportation to and from the medical forensic exam regardless of the victim's ability to pay
 3. Plan for victim confidentiality
 4. Plan to return the victim to his or her point of origin (or an agreed upon safe place) after the medical forensic examination
- Victims with medical emergencies will be transported by Cabell County Emergency Medical Service (CCEMS) regardless of the victim's ability to pay.
 - Victims with disabilities will be transported by Cabell County Emergency Medical Service (CCEMS) personnel regardless of the victim's ability to pay.
 - CONTACT will arrange free and confidential transportation to the emergency department for victims who do not have a means of transportation using the agency Uber business account.
 - Victims will not register with the hospital and will not be placed on the directory during medical forensic exams to ensure their confidentiality.
 - CONTACT will arrange free and confidential transportation from the emergency department to a safe location using CRCC Uber business account.

- Victims with disabilities will be returned to their point of origin or an agreed upon safe location by CCEMS personnel regardless of the victim's ability to pay.
- The board recognizes the potential for looking into grant monies to be utilized for victims of sexual assault.

First responders will be informed of this Transportation Protocol by:

Distribute printed and digital copies of the Cabell County SART Protocol and SAFE Plan to member agencies, and meet annually in September to develop, implement, and review county protocol to meet legislative requirements of the SAFE commission.

Goal: Implement SAFE/SART protocol quarterly staff training at the member agencies to accommodate employee churn and to incorporate the SAFE/SART protocol into onboarding for new employees.

Phone number to Activate Transportation Protocol:

Medical Emergency and / or Victims with Disabilities: 911

OR

CONTACT Rape Crisis Center: 304-399-1111 or 1-866-399-7273