

Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Commission Service Plan

FAYETTE COUNTY

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LOCAL BOARD/SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM

OVERVIEW

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

- AWAY
- Legal Aid of West Virginia
- Fayetteville City Police Department
- Fayette County Sheriff Department
- Fayette County Health Department
- Fayette County Prosecuting Attorney
- Just For Kids
- Fayette County 911 Center
- West Virginia Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

The local board/SART plans to meet quarterly the intent to:

- Share information and resources
- Identify gaps in the service delivery system
- Increase 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

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 are provided by AWAY, which will provide the following services for adolescent/adult victims:

WHO:

Community based sexual assault advocates are employees and/or volunteers of local nonprofit organizations whose primary purpose is to provide services to victims of sexual assault, regardless of whether the victim is involved with the criminal justice system. For the community-based advocate, it is the victim — not the needs of the system — that identifies the outcome sought through the advocacy process. There is no other discipline whose primary function is to advocate for the interests and wants of the victim

WHEN:

When a victim goes to Raleigh General Hospital, the advocate will respond within 90 minutes. When the victim goes to the hospital on their own, the hospital will call the advocate with AWAY (304) 255-2559.

HOW: First responders will be informed of this Advocacy Protocol by:

This notification protocol is so critical for new and existing staff that quarterly trainings will be provided as a solution to ensure all staff will know about the protocol. All copies will be provided to attendees, all the information will be provided electronically so it can be shared with each first responder's (agency) staff. A team from the SART will then do a presentation at staff meetings for each agency over the next 4 to 6 months or as needed.

The team will work with the partnering agencies to ensure that the protocol is part of the onboarding for new staff at each agency, and that annually, the protocol will be discussed at the March meeting and an email reminder with the protocol will be sent to the administrator of each agency with a copy of the protocol.

**Phone Number of rape crisis center to activate the advocacy protocol:
AWAY: 304-255-2559**

1[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.

MEDICAL FORENSIC PROTOCOL

OVERVIEW

For medical forensic services for adolescent/adult victims within our county are provided by:

Raleigh General Hospital
1710 Harper Road, Beckley, WV 25801
304-256-4100

Medical forensic exams are provided by physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, and/or SANEs who are available 24/7.

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

This notification protocol is so critical for new and existing staff that quarterly trainings will be provided as a solution to ensure all staff will know about the protocol. All copies will be provided to attendees, all the information will be provided electronically so it can be shared with each first responder's (agency) staff. A team from the SART will then do a presentation at staff meetings for each agency over the next 4 to 6 months or as needed.

The team will work with the partnering agencies to ensure that the protocol is part of the onboarding for new staff at each agency, and that annually, the protocol will be discussed at the March meeting and an email reminder with the protocol will be sent to the administrator of each agency with a copy of the protocol.

Phone number to activate the medical forensic protocol:

Raleigh General Hospital: 304-256-4100

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

This protocol will be activated when a victim of sexual assault requires a medical forensic exam and cannot provide their own transportation to and from a facility that provides this care. Each county will have a responsive service system that will provide transportation services to victims of sexual assault.

1. **911 call with injuries.** If a victim calls 911 to report a sexual assault with injuries that requires medical care, both WV Lifeline Ambulance Services and the appropriate law enforcement agency will be dispatched to the location. If the victim requires emergency medical care, WV Lifeline Ambulance Services will provide transportation (at no cost to the victim after insurance is billed) to the appropriate medical facility. If the victim chooses to initiate an investigation, the responding law enforcement officer will meet the victim at the appropriate medical facility. Fayette County's designated medical facility for an adult victim is Raleigh General Hospital, and for a child victim, it is Charleston Area Medical Center Women's and Children's Hospital.

A law enforcement officer will return when the exam is completed and provide transportation for the victim to a safe location, when necessary and requested. If the victim does not choose to report the incident to law enforcement, the officer will determine the immediate safety and security of the victim, give contact information should the victim decide to report later, and transport the victim to a safe location. Victims with disabilities will be transported to a safe location by WV Lifeline Ambulance Services at no direct cost to the victim. For a vulnerable adult victim with disability or mental incapacity, an immediate referral to adult protective services shall be made. For a child victim, an immediate referral to child protective services shall be made.

The Fayette County on-call prosecutor shall be immediately notified of such a call by the Fayette County 911 Center, and shall be informed immediately of the identity of responding officers.

2. **911 call with no injuries.** If a victim calls 911 to report a sexual assault with no injuries that require medical care and no medical transport is needed, the appropriate law enforcement agency will be contacted and proceed to the location. If the victim chooses to initiate an investigation and requests a medical forensic examination but has no available transportation, the law enforcement officer will provide transportation to the appropriate medical facility if requested. A law enforcement officer will return when the exam is completed if necessary to provide transportation for the victim to a safe location.
3. **Call to rape crisis center with no injuries.** If a victim calls AWAY (rape crisis center), the advocate will discuss the various reporting options and provide information about the medical forensic examination. If it is determined that the victim does want to report the crime, 911 can be contacted to implement the above protocol. If the victim is uncertain or does not want to report the crime and no transportation options are available, the appropriate law enforcement agency will be contacted and will transport the victim to the appropriate medical facility if requested. If necessary and requested, law enforcement will be contacted upon discharge from the medical facility to transport the victim to a safe location.

First responders will be informed of this Transportation Protocol by:

This notification protocol is so critical for new and existing staff that quarterly trainings will be provided as a solution to ensure all staff will know about the protocol. All copies will be provided to attendees, all the information will be provided electronically so it can be shared with each first responder's (agency) staff. A team from the SART will then do a presentation at staff meetings for each agency over the next 4 to 6 months or as needed.

The team will work with the partnering agencies to ensure that the protocol is part of the onboarding for new staff at each agency, and that annually, the protocol will be discussed at the March meeting and an email reminder with the protocol will be sent to the administrator of each agency with a copy of the protocol.

Phone numbers to activate the transportation protocol:
In cases of injury or reports to law enforcement: 911
In cases where victims do not choose to report: 304-255-2559