

**Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Commission
Grant County Service Plan
John Ours, Prosecuting Attorney**

Local Board/SART Overview

To meet SAFE Commission standards, Grant County has formalized a coordinated response through the creation of a Grant County Sexual Assault Task Force (GCSATF) convened specifically to meet the SAFE Commission's guidelines. Members of this local coordinated response collaboration include:

- Grant County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- Grant County Sheriff's Office
- WVU Medicine Grant Memorial Hospital
- Grant County Rescue Squad
- Family Crisis Center
- 911 Center (Grant County Office of Emergency Management)

The GCSATF plans to meet each year in July with 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 (***please check all services that apply***).

-  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

Services for adolescent/adult victims are provided by Family Crisis Center.

According to the Family Crisis Center, Inc., the crisis center cannot begin to provide services until services are requested by the victim unless in an emergency situation and the victim requests hospital accommodation by an advocate at the hospital.

The Family Crisis Center, Inc. has a worker on-call twenty-four hours a day. A worker is available in the office during normal business hours. After hours, the on-call worker is reached through an answering service that takes phone calls. The Family Crisis Center, Inc. can be reached at: 1-800-698-1240 and 304-788-6061 twenty-four hours a day.

If law enforcement has the first contact with the victim, the law enforcement officer will contact the Family Crisis Center, Inc. within the first sixty (60) minutes of making contact with the victim, at the victim's request, and the victim must be available to speak with the advocate.

^[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 law enforcement officer will make this referral wherever contact is being made, including at the hospital, agency office, or any other location in which the officer is responding.

If the hospital/medical facility has first contact with the victim, the emergency room personnel or FNE/SANE will contact the Family Crisis Center, Inc. within the first sixty (60) minutes of making contact with the victim, at the victim's request, to make a referral and/or request the on-call advocate's presence in the hospital.

The Family Crisis Center's on-call advocate will respond to the hospital within ninety (90) minutes of the initial hotline phone call.

First responders will be informed of this Advocacy Protocol by the head of their departments. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office will provide the plan to first responders who need to have access to this plan.

First responders will be informed of this Advocacy Protocol by:

First responders will be informed of this Advocacy Protocol by the Grant County Prosecuting Office distributing the county plan. This plan is provided to all members of the GCSATF. This SAFE Plan will be reviewed annually in July by the GCSATF. GCSATF worked with first responders to include the SAFE Plan protocols in their agency's staff onboarding procedures and ongoing training.

Phone numbers of Rape Crisis Center to activate Advocacy Protocol:

1-800-698-1240 and 304-788-6061

MEDICAL FORENSIC PROTOCOL

OVERVIEW

Forensic services are NOT provided at WVU Medicine Grant Memorial Hospital.

Forensic services ARE provided via a letter of agreement with:

Winchester Medical Center Valley Health
1840 Amherst St
Winchester, VA 22601
540-536-4147

Forensic exams are provided by sexual assault nurse examiners available on-call 24/7.

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

First responders will be informed of this Medical Forensic Protocol by the Grant County Prosecuting Office distributing the county plan. This plan is provided to all members of the GCSATF. This SAFE Plan will be reviewed annually in July by the GCSATF. GCSATF worked with first responders to include the SAFE Plan protocols in their agency's staff onboarding procedures and ongoing training.

Phone number to activate Medical Forensic Protocol: 540-536-4147

If no response, call 540-536-8000 and ask to page the on-call forensic nurse.

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.

Transportation Protocol

1. To initiate the plan, call 911.
2. Grant County Rescue Squad for injuries and disability and Grant County Sheriff's Office for others. Transportation services will be provided by EMS in emergent situations or by Law Enforcement in non-emergent situations when needed by victim, regardless of a victim's choice to report the incident.
3. When a victim in Grant County needs a ride to a safe place or shelter, Grant County Sheriff's Department will transport regardless of a victim's choice to report the incident.
4. An MOU with the Grant County Rescue Squad has been signed to not charge the victim if they are unable to pay.
5. The Grant County Sheriff's Office will maintain confidentiality and the Grant County Rescue Squad will abide by HIPAA.
6. Both agencies have agreed to return the victim to a safe place of origin following the exam. Both agencies will provide this as annual training and onboarding training. This will be part of the standard operating procedures.

First responders will be informed of this Transportation Protocol by the Grant County Prosecuting Office distributing the county plan. This plan is provided to all members of the GCSATF. This SAFE Plan will be reviewed annually in July by the GCSATF. GCSATF worked with first responders to include the SAFE Plan protocols in their agency's staff onboarding procedures and ongoing training.

Phone number to activate Transportation Protocol: 911