

## **Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Commission**

### **Hardy County Service Plan**

#### **Local Board/SART Overview**

To meet SAFE Commission standards, Hardy 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:

- Prosecutor
- Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
- Family Crisis Center Inc.
- West Virginia State Police (Moorefield Detachment)
- Hardy County Sheriff's Office
- Moorefield Police Department
- Hardy County 911 Director
- Winchester Medical Center Forensic Program Director
- West Hardy Emergency Medical Services Chief of Operations
- Hardy County Schools Superintendent
- Eastern Community and Technical College
- Sarah's House Child Advocacy Center

The local board/SART meets/plans to meet Monthly 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

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 the Family Crisis Center, Inc. (FCC).**

Advocacy services are available during business hours at the Hardy County office at: **304-530-6771**. After hours, the **24/7** on-call worker is reached through an answering service at: **1-800-698-1240**.

If a victim reports first to law enforcement or EMS, they will contact the victim advocate.

If the hospital/medical facility has first contact with the victim, the emergency room personnel or FNE/SANE will contact FCC immediately after making contact with the victim to make a referral and request the on-call advocate's presence in the hospital.

FCC'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:

First responders will be informed of this Advocacy Protocol by the head of their departments, who will implement the plan into their agencies' onboarding procedures. The team will meet every April to review the plan. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office will provide the plan to first responders who need to have access to this plan, which includes: Moorefield Police Department, Hardy County Sheriff's Office, West Virginia State Police-Hardy County Detachment, Winchester Medical Center, 911 Dispatch, Hardy County Schools, Family Crisis Center Inc., Sarah's House Child Advocacy Center, City & County Emergency Medical Services, and the Health Department.

**Phone number of Rape Crisis Center to Activate Protocol:**

Family Crisis Center Inc.  
24/7 hotline: 1-800-698-1240  
Moorefield Outreach Office  
304-530-6771

## MEDICAL FORENSIC PROTOCOL

Medical forensic services are provided via a letter of agreement with a medical facility from another county:

Winchester Medical Center  
1840 Amherst Street  
Winchester, VA 22601

(540) 536-8000 WMC Switchboard \*\*\* ask to have the on-call Forensic Nurse Examiner (FNE) paged

- Medical forensic exams are provided SANEs who are 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 head of their departments, who will implement the plan into their agencies' onboarding procedures. The team will meet every April to review the plan. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office will provide the plan to first responders who need to have access to this plan, which includes: Moorefield Police Department, Hardy County Sheriff's Office, West Virginia State Police-Hardy County Detachment, Winchester Medical Center, 911 Dispatch, Hardy County Schools, Family Crisis Center Inc., Sarah's House Child Advocacy Center, City & County Emergency Medical Services, and the Health Department.

### **Phone number to Activate Medical Forensic Protocol:**

(540) 536-8000 - WMC Switchboard

## **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 transportation protocol will be activated when a victim of sexual assault requires a medical forensic exam, does not have access to transportation, or cannot transport themselves to/from a facility that provides the exam. As per the state SAFE Commission requirements, this protocol includes accessible transportation regardless of the victim's ability to pay and whether the victim wishes to report to law enforcement. The plan addresses victim confidentiality, notifying first responders' staff for implementing the protocol, and outlines the process to transport the victim to the medical forensic examination facility and return the victim to her/his/their point of origin or a safe location at no cost to the victim.

All victim information will be **CONFIDENTIAL** and will **ONLY** be used for medical treatment and/or law enforcement investigation, **IF** reported.

### **TRANSPORTATION FOR VICTIM ARRIVAL**

#### **1. Victim With Injuries**

##### **Presenting to an Emergency 911 Call**

When a sexual assault victim in Hardy County requires a medical forensic examination, has physical injuries needing immediate medical attention, and has no transportation to a facility providing such services, the following procedures will be activated:

If a sexual assault victim calls 911 needing emergent medical care, EMS will respond.

EMS will transport the victim to the appropriate medical facility where the victim will receive emergency medical attention to their injuries through the Emergency Department.

If the victim chooses to report, law enforcement will be called to respond, document, and report the incident.

## **Call to Rape Crisis Center (FCC)**

If an adult sexual assault victim contacts the rape crisis center (FCC) after a recent assault and has emergent medical needs, the advocate will guide the victim to call 911, thereby activating the protocol outlined above.

The Rape Crisis Center (FCC) will then dispatch the on-call advocate to respond to the applicable medical center.

The Advocacy Protocol will then be implemented.

## **2. Victim Without Injuries**

### **Presenting to an Emergency 911 Call**

When a sexual assault victim in Hardy County requires a medical forensic examination, does not have physical injuries needing immediate medical attention, and has no transportation to a facility providing such services, the following procedures will be activated when a sexual assault is reported:

**If the victim chooses to report**, law enforcement will transport the victim with their consent to the appropriate medical facility at no cost to the victim. The FCC advocate will transport the victim to a safe place following the examination.

**If the victim chooses not to report**, does not wish to have law enforcement transport them, and wishes to have a medical forensic SANE Exam, the responding law enforcement officer will then contact FCC's 24/7 Helpline, where FCC will dispatch their on-call advocate to transport the victim at no cost to and from the appropriate medical facility.

If the victim has a disability and requires transportation that is all-accessible for their physical accommodations, 911 will be contacted and the local ambulance service will provide transportation to and from the examination at no cost to the victim.

## **Call to Rape Crisis Center (FCC)**

If a sexual assault victim contacts the Rape Crisis Center (FCC) after a recent assault and does not have emergent medical needs, the on-call advocate will inform the victim of the medical forensic exam and law enforcement report/no-report options.

If the victim would like to have a medical forensic examination completed but has no access to transportation, the on-call advocate will discuss all options of transportation avenues with friends and/or family members. If the victim does not have any transportation available to them, the advocate will transport the victim to and from the

appropriate Medical Facility at no cost to the victim after all avenues have been exhausted.

First responders will be informed of this Transportation Protocol by:

First responders will be informed of this Transportation Protocol by the head of their departments, who will implement the plan into their agencies' onboarding procedures. The team will meet every April to review the plan. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office will provide the plan to first responders who need to have access to this plan, which includes: Moorefield Police Department, Hardy County Sheriff's Office, West Virginia State Police-Hardy County Detachment, Winchester Medical Center, 911 Dispatch, Hardy County Schools, Family Crisis Center Inc., Sarah's House Child Advocacy Center, City & County Emergency Medical Services, and the Health Department.

Phone number to Activate Transportation Protocol: **911**