

Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Commission

Mineral County

Local Board/SART Overview

To meet SAFE Commission standards, Mineral County has formalized a coordinated response through the creation of a local board, convened specifically to meet the SAFE Commission's guidelines. Members of this local coordinated response collaboration include:

- Mineral County Prosecutor
- UPMC Western Maryland Corporation
- Mineral County 911
- Ridgeley Police Department
- West Virginia State Police
- Keyser Police Department
- WVU Potomac State Police Department
- Family Crisis Center
- Mineral County Sheriff

The local board/SART meets/plans to meet every six months 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:

1. 24/7 advocacy, support, and accompaniment during the medical forensic exam, law enforcement investigations, and court proceedings
2. Information for victims about reporting/not reporting to law enforcement
3. Crisis intervention and/or emotional support to victims and their families
4. Referrals and coordinated services with other agencies
5. Support for victims through the criminal justice system
6. Replacement clothing for victims after medical forensic exams, if needed
7. Protection of victim privacy and confidentiality

Advocacy services in our county for adolescent/adult victims are provided by Family Crisis Center, Inc.

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, and after hours the on-call worker is reached through an answering service that takes phone calls from both of the center's telephone numbers, 1-800-698-1240 (24/7 number) and 304-788-6061 (during business

^[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.

hours). Once the worker has received the call, they will respond within 90 minutes of receiving the call.

Any agency or the victim can contact the advocate. Law enforcement in this county provides the Family Crisis Center's contact information to the victim. If law enforcement makes the initial contact, the victim must be available to speak with the advocate.

First responders will be informed of this Advocacy Protocol by:

All first responders will be informed of Mineral County's SAFE Plan by the respective representatives attending the local SART meeting. Local SART members have been informed of this protocol and copies of the flow charts have been provided to them. This SAFE Plan will be reviewed annually in January by the SART. The SART will work to encourage first responders to include the SAFE Plan protocols in their agency's staff onboarding procedures.

Phone numbers of rape crisis center to Activate Protocol:

1-800-698-1240 (24/7)

304-788-6061 (during business hours)

MEDICAL FORENSIC PROTOCOL

OVERVIEW

Services are provided via a letters of agreement with medical facilities from other Counties:.

UPMC Western Maryland Regional Medical Facility
12400 Willowbrook Road, Cumberland, MD 21502

240-964-7000 UPMC Switchboard – ask to have Forensic Nurse
Examiner paged

240-964-1200 UPMC Emergency Department

At UPMC Western Maryland Regional Medical Facility, medical forensic exams are provided by SANEs who are available on-call 24/7.

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

All first responders will be informed of Mineral County's SAFE Plan by the respective representatives attending the local SART meeting. Local SART members have been informed of this protocol and copies of the flow charts have been provided to them. This SAFE Plan will be reviewed annually in January by the SART. The SART will work to encourage first responders to include the SAFE Plan protocols in their agency's staff onboarding procedures.

Phone numbers to activate Medical Forensic Protocol:

UPMC Western Maryland Regional Medical Facility:

240-964-7000 UPMC Switchboard – ask to have Forensic Nurse Examiner paged
240-964-1200 UPMC Emergency Department

TRANSPORTATION PROTOCOL

OVERVIEW

This protocol will be activated when a victim of sexual assault requires a medical forensic exam and cannot transport themselves to and from a facility that provides that care. 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

In Mineral County, transportation services will be provided by EMS in emergent situations or by law enforcement in non-emergent situations when needed by a victim, regardless of a victim's choice to report the incident.

When a victim in Mineral County needs a ride to a safe place or shelter, law enforcement (as identified above as members of this local coordinated response collaboration) will transport regardless of a victim's choice to report the incident.

The transportation protocol is activated when law enforcement or EMS respond to a call. EMS, family, law enforcement or Family Crisis Center will transport the victim to and from the appropriate medical provider for the forensic examination. This transportation will be provided regardless of the victim's ability to pay. The victim's confidentiality will be protected during the transport.

If the victim has a disability and no means of transportation, law enforcement will transport the victim to the hospital facility and back to the point of origin or to a safe place at no cost to the victim (i.e., if a victim has a folding wheelchair, law enforcement, with the help of hospital security, will assist the victim into the car and store the wheelchair in the back).

First responders will be informed of this Transportation Protocol by:

All first responders will be informed of Mineral County's SAFE Plan by the respective representatives attending the local SART meeting. Local SART members have been informed of this protocol and copies of the flow charts have been provided to them. This SAFE Plan will be reviewed annually in January by the SART. The SART will work to encourage first responders to include the SAFE Plan protocols in their agency's staff onboarding procedures.

Phone number to activate Transportation Protocol: 911