

Monongalia County
Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Commission
Monongalia County Plan

Local Board/SART Overview

To meet SAFE Commission standards, Monongalia 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:

- Monongalia General Hospital – Emergency and Trauma Director
- Star City Police Department
- WVUH – Ruby Memorial Hospital - SANE
- WVU Office of Student Conduct – Assistant Dean
- WVU Office of Equity Assurance – Title IX Coordinator
- Morgantown High School - Counselor
- Morgantown Police Department - Detective
- WVU Police Department
- West Virginia State Police
- NWVCIL – Executive Director
- MECCA 911 – Emergency Planner
- RDVIC – SART Coordinator
- WVU Student Engagement Office – Assistant Director
- Monongalia Victim Assistance Program – Program Coordinator
- Preston Memorial Hospital – SANE
- Monongalia Prosecuting Attorney
- WVU Office of Housing and Residential Life – Assistant Director
- WVU Office of Student Conduct – Assistant Dean
- WVU Police Department – Investigator
- Well WVU Carruth Center
- WVUH – Ruby Memorial Hospital – SANE
- WellWVU Office of Wellness and Health – Project Director
- WellWVU Office of Wellness and Health – Male Engagement Specialist
- WVUH – Student Health – Medical Social Worker

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

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

^[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.

- ☒ 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 Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center which will be providing services to our county.

If a victim reports first to law enforcement, the responding officer or a department member will contact the Rape and Domestic Violence Center to notify an advocate to respond either to the police station, or to the medical center if the victim is being immediately transported for treatment and evidence collection.

The protocol anticipates that advocacy services will be made available to a victim within one hour.

When a victim presents at the medical center, the advocacy protocol calls for a phone call to be made as soon as possible to the Rape and Domestic Information Center (304-292-5100).

The Advocacy Protocol contemplates that an advocate from the WVU Carruth Counseling Center (304-293-4431 24/hour hotline) will be contacted secondarily if the victim is a WVU student and wishes to use that service instead of the RDVIC.

First responders will be informed of this Advocacy Protocol by:

The Monongalia County SART team will review and update the SAFE plan yearly, during the first meeting of the year (typically January). Copies of the service plan will be printed and distributed in-person to all members of the SART team and community partners who may come in contact with victims. The SART team will also present a training to said members in attendance on the protocol, within the following two months (February or March). Additionally, RDVIC Staff will coordinate and provide training twice a year, or as needed, to first responders about the protocol to ensure staff are properly informed of the advocacy protocol. The plan will also be implemented into the onboarding procedure of all first responders.

Phone number of Rape Crisis Center to Activate Protocol:

304-292-5100

MEDICAL FORENSIC PROTOCOL

Medical forensic services for adolescent/adult victims within our county services are provided by a medical facility located in our county.

Ruby Memorial Hospital – WVU
1 Medical Center Dr
Morgantown, WV 26506
304-598-4000

Medical forensic exams are provided by Physicians & SANEs, which are available on-call 24/7.

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

The Monongalia County SART team will review and update the SAFE plan yearly, during the first meeting of the year (typically January). Copies of the service plan will be printed and distributed in-person to all members of the SART team and community partners who may come in contact with victims. The SART team will also present a training to said members in attendance on the protocol, within the following two months (February or March). Additionally, RDVIC Staff will coordinate and provide training twice a year, or as needed, to first responders about the protocol to ensure staff are properly informed of the advocacy protocol. The plan will also be implemented into the onboarding procedure of all first responders.

Phone number to Activate Medical Forensic Protocol: 304-598-4000

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

Law enforcement or the victim advocate provides victim transportation to and from Ruby Memorial Hospital – WVU.

If a victim reports first to law enforcement, a police officer will transport the victim to Ruby Memorial Hospital or arrange for emergency medical transport if necessary. After examination, treatment and evidence collection procedures, the victim advocate, typically from the Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center (RDVIC), can assist in arranging transportation for victim to return the victim to a place of safety. If the victim responding for an examination is a resident of Monongalia County, RDVIC advocates can transport to a safe, public place, or provide rideshare services (Uber, Lyft, Taxi) for clients returning to private residences.

EMS may also transport victims with disabilities or moderate to severe injuries, if requested, free of charge for the purpose of obtaining a forensic exam.

All members of the Monongalia County SART specifically agree to maintain victim confidentiality and privacy as part of signing on to the SART protocol.

No payment for victim transport is required by police or advocate transporters.

First responders will be informed of this Transportation Protocol by:

The Monongalia County SART team will review and update the SAFE plan yearly, during the first meeting of the year (typically January). Copies of the service plan will be printed and distributed in-person to all members of the SART team and community partners who may come in contact with victims. The SART team will also present a training to said members in attendance on the protocol, within the following two months (February or March). Additionally, RDVIC Staff will coordinate and provide training twice a year, or as needed, to first responders about the protocol to ensure staff are properly informed of the advocacy protocol. The plan will also be implemented into the onboarding procedure of all first responders.

Phone number to Activate Transportation Protocol: 911 or RDVIC 304-292-5100