

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

### **Pleasants County Service Plan**

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#### **Overview**

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

1. Pleasants County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
2. Pleasants County Sheriff's Department
3. St. Marys City Police Department
4. West Virginia State Police, St. Mary's Detachment
5. WV Department of Human Services, Child Protective Services
6. Pleasants County Central Communications (911)
7. Pleasants County Ambulance Authority
8. Family Crisis Intervention Center of Region V, Inc.
9. North Star Child Advocacy Center

The SART meets quarterly, with additional meetings as needed, with the intent to:

- X Share information and resources
- X Identify gaps in the service delivery system
- X Increase awareness on issues of sexual assault and stalking in the community
- X Increase victim and community safety
- X Develop professional relationships and an understanding of varying roles and responsibilities of first responders
- X Develop, implement, and review county protocol to meet legislative Requirements of the SAFE Commission

## **ADVOCACY PROTOCOL**

### **OVERVIEW**

The following seven advocacy services meet core service standards. The following services exist in our county:

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

Advocacy services in Pleasants County are provided by the Family Crisis Intervention Center (FCIC).

An advocate from FCIC will be contacted by law enforcement, Camden Clark, Pleasants County Emergency Ambulance Authority, or any other agency in need of services for victims by calling 304-684-5612 during business hours or 24/7 at 1-800-794-2335.

A victim advocate will respond to the hospital within one hour.

First responders will be informed of this Advocacy Protocol by:

The SART will review the SAFE Plan on a yearly basis at the first quarterly meeting of each calendar year. Following the yearly review, the SART team will hold an information session to educate first responders on the SAFE Plan, including any revisions or updates to the plan. The Pleasants County Prosecutor's Office shall send a memo to all first responder agencies to invite every member to the information session.

All first responders-Pleasants County Sheriff's Department, City of St. Marys Police Department, West Virginia State Police (St. Marys Detachment), Pleasants County Central Communications (911 Center), Pleasants County Ambulance Authority, and North Star Child Advocacy Center-shall have access to the SAFE Plan.

The Pleasants County Prosecuting Attorney's Office will coordinate with the first responders' respective agencies to ensure that introduction and education on the SAFE Plan are part of each agency's onboarding procedures.

**Phone numbers of Family Crisis Intervention Center to Activate Protocol:**

**Monday – Friday 8-4: (304) 684-5612**

**24/7: 1-800-794-2335**

In cases of child abuse and/or assault perpetrated against an adolescent as defined by WV law, North Star Child Advocacy Center is contacted for forensic services at (304) 917-4437.

## **MEDICAL FORENSIC PROTOCOL**

Medical forensic services for adolescent/adult victims from Pleasants County are provided by:

WVU Medicine Camden Clark Medical Center  
800 Garfield Avenue  
Parkersburg, WV 26101  
Emergency Department: 304-424-2355

Medical forensic exams are provided 24/7 on-call by physicians or SANEs.

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

The SART will review the SAFE Plan on a yearly basis at the first quarterly meeting of each calendar year. Following the yearly review, the SART team will hold an information session to educate first responders on the SAFE Plan, including any revisions or updates to the plan. The Pleasants County Prosecutor's Office shall send a memo to all first responder agencies to invite every member to the information session.

All first responders-Pleasants County Sheriff's Department, City of St. Marys Police Department, West Virginia State Police (St. Marys Detachment), Pleasants County Central Communications (911 Center), Pleasants County Ambulance Authority, and North Star Child Advocacy Center-shall have access to the SAFE Plan.

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

**Camden-Clark Memorial Hospital Emergency Department: (304) 424-2355**

## TRANSPORTATION PROTOCOL

### Overview

The SAFE Commission requires that this transportation protocol 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

**Protocol.** When a sexual assault victim in Pleasants County requires a medical forensic examination and has no transportation to Camden Clark Memorial Hospital (or other facility providing such services), the following procedures will be activated when a sexual assault is reported.

1. **911 Call with Injuries.** If a sexual assault victim calls 911 needing emergent medical care, Pleasants County Ambulance Authority and the appropriate law enforcement agency will both respond.
  - The Pleasants County Ambulance Authority will transport the victim (at no direct cost to the victim) to the appropriate hospital. The closest hospital that provides forensic medical exams is Camden Clark Memorial Hospital.
  - IF the victim chooses to initiate a police investigation, the responding law enforcement officer will document and report the incident. Law enforcement will stay at the medical facility, if necessary for the safety of the victim, or return when the medical forensic exam is completed to transport the victim to a safe location if needed.
  - IF the victim chooses NOT to initiate a police investigation, law enforcement will determine the immediate safety and security of the victim, provide contact information should the victim decide to make a report at later date, and transport the victim to a safe location if needed following the medical forensic exam.

Law enforcement agencies willing to transport victims include Pleasants County Sheriff's Department, St. Marys Police Department, and the WV State Police.

2. **911 Call with No Injuries.** If a sexual assault victim calls 911 or contacts a law enforcement agency to report a sexual assault, is safe, and does NOT need medical care, the appropriate law enforcement agency will be contacted and proceed to the identified location. The victim will be informed by the law enforcement officer of the medical forensic exam and law enforcement report/ non-report options.
  - IF the victim chooses to have a medical forensic exam and initiate a police investigation and does not have transportation, law enforcement will provide

transportation to Camden Clark Memorial Hospital. The responding law enforcement officer will document and report the incident. Law enforcement will remain at the medical facility if necessary for the safety of the victim, or return to the facility when the medical forensic exam is complete to transport the victim to a safe location.

- IF the victim chooses NOT to initiate a police investigation and does not have transportation for the medical forensic exam, law enforcement will respond and provide transportation to Camden Clark Memorial Hospital. The responding law enforcement officer will determine the immediate safety and security of the victim and provide contact information should the victim decide to make a report at a later date. Law enforcement will return when the medical forensic exam is complete to transport the victim to a safe location.

Law enforcement agencies willing to transport victims include Pleasants County Sheriff's Department, St. Marys Police Department, and the WV State Police.

- Victims with disabilities who are unable to be transported safely by law enforcement will be transported to Camden Clark Memorial Hospital and from the facility to a safe location by the Pleasants County Ambulance Authority at NO cost to the victim.

3. **Call to Rape Crisis Center.** If a sexual assault victim contacts Family Crisis Intervention Center after a recent assault, the advocate will inform them of the medical forensic exam and law enforcement report/non-report options. IF the victim has emergent medical needs and/or requests to have a medical forensic exam but has no transportation, the advocate will guide the victim to call 911. This will activate one of the protocols outlined in numbers 1 or 2 above.

First responders will be informed of this Transportation Protocol by:

The SART will review the SAFE Plan on a yearly basis at the first quarterly meeting of each calendar year. Following the yearly review, the SART team will hold an information session to educate first responders on the SAFE Plan, including any revisions or updates to the plan. The Pleasants County Prosecutor's Office shall send a memo to all first responder agencies to invite every member to the information session.

All first responders-Pleasants County Sheriff's Department, City of St. Marys Police Department, West Virginia State Police (St. Marys Detachment), Pleasants County Central Communications (911 Center), Pleasants County Ambulance Authority, and North Star Child Advocacy Center- shall have access to the SAFE Plan.

The Pleasants County Prosecuting Attorney's Office will coordinate with the first responders' respective agencies to ensure that introduction and education on the SAFE Plan are part of each agency's onboarding procedures.

**Phone number to Activate Transportation Protocol: Pleasants County Dispatch - 911**