

Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Commission

Service Plan Template

Preston County

Local Board/SART Overview

To meet SAFE Commission standards, Preston 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:

- Preston County Prosecuting Attorney's office
- Preston County Prosecuting Attorney victim advocate
- Preston Memorial Hospital
- Preston County Sheriff's Department
- Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for Kids
- Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center (RDVIC)
- Preston County Family Resource Network (FRN)
- Preston County 911

The local board/SART meets bi-monthly 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 for adolescent/adult victims in our county are provided by RDVIC.

- If contacted by a victim, law enforcement should assist, if needed, in transporting the victim to Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown where the victim can receive a sexual assault forensic exam (SAFE). Once the victim has been checked in by hospital staff, the intake nurse should call RDVIC's 24-hour hotline and speak to a victim advocate informing them that there is a patient waiting to have a SAFE.
- If the victim calls law enforcement but does not want to go to the hospital for a sexual assault forensic exam, the responding officer should provide the victim with RDVIC's 24-Hour Hotline so that the victim can speak with a victim advocate to discuss needs and options.
- Upon being contacted by law enforcement, hospital staff, or the victim, the RDVIC staff member who is on-call will respond to the phone call immediately, regardless of the time. If in-person services are needed, the RDVIC advocate should appear in-person within 1-hour of the initial phone call.
- To access RDVIC's agency services, responders will need to call RDVIC's 24-Hour Hotline: 304-292-5100. An advocate should be called immediately after a victim has checked in at the hospital.

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

OVERVIEW

Medical Forensic Services for victims ARE NOT Provided at Preston Memorial Hospital.

Services are provided via a letter of agreement with:

J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital Emergency Room
1 Medical Center Dr, Morgantown, WV 26506
304-598-4000

Responders should call: J. W. Ruby Memorial Hospital Emergency Room: (304)-598-4000 to notify the hospital that a victim is enroute for a medical forensic exam.

Medical forensic exams are provided by SANEs 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

For safety reasons, RDVIC advocates do not transport victims. EMS will be called to transport victims to the hospital in both emergent and non-emergent cases. Transportation is free of charge.

Transportation from the hospital will be arranged on a case-by-case basis. RDVIC victim advocates may transport back to RDVIC's emergency shelter. In instances where the victim would like dropped off at a private residence, the advocate will coordinate with other responding agencies (law enforcement or EMS) or third-party transportation services (Lyft, Uber, Taxi – dependent on time of day).

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