

Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Commission Service Plan

RALEIGH COUNTY

11/15/22

LOCAL BOARD/SART

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

Raleigh County Prosecuting Attorney

Raleigh County APA

Raleigh County APA

Beckley Police Department

Advocate, AWAY/WRC

Advocate, AWAY/WRC

Sexual Assault Coordinator, AWAY/WRC

Advocate, AWAY/WRC

Shelter Manager, AWAY/WRC

Just For Kids

Physician Assistant

Raleigh County CPS/APS

Adult Probation

Appalachian Regional Hospital

Legal Aid of WV

The local board/SART meets/plans to meet every other month 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

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
●	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 are provided by AWAY, which will provide the following services for adolescent/adult victims:

WHO:

Community based sexual assault advocates are employees of local nonprofit organizations whose primary purpose is to provide services to victims of sexual assault, regardless of whether the victim is involved with the criminal justice system. For the community-based advocate, it is the victim—not the needs of the system, that identifies the outcome sought through the advocacy process. There is no other discipline whose primary function is to advocate for the interests and wants of the victim.

WHEN:

When a victim goes to *Raleigh General Hospital*, advocate will respond within 1 hr.; if a victim goes to *Appalachian Regional Hospital*, advocate will respond within 1 hr.

When the victim goes to the hospital on their own: *The Hospital staff will call the AWAY hotline number at 304-255-2559, and an Advocate will be notified to make contact.*

When the victim does not want to report: *The victim will be given a packet with information of AWAY Services available.*

When the victim presents at AWAY, the AWAY staff will go over the victim's options and make arrangements for the victim to be transported to the hospital.

HOW: First responders will be informed of this protocol by:

First responders will be informed of this Advocacy Protocol by: AWAY Advocacy center Victim Advocates will distribute information to the SART/STOP Team Members. The AWAY outreach Victim Advocates will distribute information to the Hospitals and the Police Departments that are not represented on the team. A team member will reach out to each first responder's agency to do a presentation on the protocols as needed. The team will work with the partnering agencies to ensure that the Advocacy Protocol is part of the onboarding for new staff at each agency and an email will be sent with the Advocacy Protocol to each agency every quarter or as needed whichever is more frequent.

**Name phone number of rape crisis center to activate
advocacy protocol:
AWAY
304-255-2559**

[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.

MEDICAL FORENSIC PROTOCOL

OVERVIEW

Medical forensic services for adolescent/adult victims within our county

- Services are provided by a medical facility located in our county
 - Raleigh General Hospital, 304-256-4100
 - Beckley Appalachian Regional Hospital, 304-255-3000

First responders will be informed of this Medical Protocol by:

The notification process is so critical for new and existing staff that quarterly trainings will be provided to ensure all staff will know the protocol. All copies will be provided to attendees, all information will be shared electronically with each first responder's agency. A team from the SART will offer to do presentations at staff meetings every quarter or as needed whichever is more frequent.

Name of Medical facility to activate forensic protocol:

Medical forensic services for adolescent/adult victims **ARE** provided by SANEs who are not available on call 24/7 and by physicians.

Raleigh General Hospital, 1710 Harper Road, Beckley, WV 25801, 304-256-4100

Beckley Appalachian Regional Hospital, 306 Stanford road. Beckley, WV 25801, 304-255-3100

TRANSPORTATION PROTOCOL

OVERVIEW

The SAFE Commission requires that the 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 their point of origin (or an agreed upon safe place) after the medical forensic examination
-
1. 911 Call with injuries. If a victim calls to report a sexual assault that requires medical care, both EMS and the appropriate law enforcement agency will be dispatched to the location. If victim requires medical care, EMS will provide transportation to Raleigh General Hospital or Beckley Appalachian Hospital. If the victim chooses to initiate an investigation the responding law officer will meet the victim at the appropriate medical facility
 2. 911 call with no injuries. If a victim calls 911 to report a sexual assault with no injuries that require medical care and no EMS transport is needed, the appropriate law enforcement agency will be contacted and proceed to the location. If victim wants to initiate an investigation and requests a forensic exam but has no transportation, the law enforcement officer will provide transportation to the medical facility. A law enforcement officer will return when exam is completed and provide transportation for the victim to a safe location, when necessary and requested. Transportation arrangements for victims with disabilities will be made by AWAY staff ensuring no cost to the victim.
 3. Call to rape crisis center with no injuries: If a victim calls AWAY, the advocate will discuss the various reporting options and provide information about the medical forensic examination. If it is determined that the victim does not want to report the crime, 911 can be contacted to implement the above protocol. If the victim is uncertain or does not want to report, the appropriate law agency will be notified and will transport the victim to the medical facility if requested. If necessary, law enforcement will be contacted upon discharge from the medical facility to transport the victim to a safe location.

First responders will be informed of this transportation protocol by:

The notification process is so critical for new and existing staff that trainings will be provided as a solution to ensure all staff know the Transportation protocol. All the information shared at the SART/STOP Meetings will be electronically shared with each responder's agencies to be shared with staff. An email will be sent to the administrator of each agency every quarter or as needed whichever is more frequent.

Phone number to activate Transportation Protocol: 911- in case of emergency or reports to law enforcement.

AWAY Hotline if victim does not want to report: 304-255-2559