

Wayne County Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Commission

Wayne County Service Plan

Richard Thompson, Prosecutor

Local Board/SART Overview

To meet SAFE Commission standards, Wayne 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:

- Prosecuting Attorney
- Wayne County Sheriff
- West Virginia State Police
- Huntington Police Department
- Kenova Police Department
- Ceredo Police Department
- Wayne Police Department
- CONTACT Rape Crisis Center
- Cabell Huntington Hospital HOOPS CAC
- Wayne County 911
- Ceredo EMS

The local SAFE board meets/plans to meet bi-yearly 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
- ☒ 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 CONTACT Rape Crisis Center, which will provide services to our county.

^[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.

First responders will be informed of this Advocacy Protocol by:

Distribute printed and digital copies of the Wayne County SAFE Protocol and SAFE plan to member agencies, and meet annually in February to develop, implement, and review county protocol to meet legislative requirements of the SAFE Commission. Goal: Implement SAFE protocol bi-yearly staff training at the member agencies to accommodate employee turnover and incorporate the SAFE protocol into all onboarding training for new employees.

Phone numbers of Rape Crisis Center to Activate Protocol:

CONTACT of Huntington 304-399-1111 or 1-866-399-7273

MEDICAL FORENSIC PROTOCOL

OVERVIEW

Adult medical forensic services are provided by medical facilities located in Cabell County as directed by Med-com following the Wayne County SAFE protocol.

Cabell Huntington Hospital
1340 Hal Greet Boulevard
Huntington, WV 25701
304-526-2200

St. Mary's Medical Center
2900 1st Avenue
Huntington, WV 25702
304-526-1111

Medical forensic exams are provided by Physicians and SANEs who are available on-call 24/7.

Child and adolescent forensic services are provided by the following medical facility in Cabell County as directed by Med-com following the Wayne County SAFE protocol.

Cabell Huntington Hospital
HOOPS Child Advocacy Center
1340 Hal Greet Boulevard
Huntington, WV 25701
304-526-2349

Medical forensic exams are provided by Physicians and SANEs who are available on-call 24/7.

Cabell Huntington Medical Center ER will contact HOOPS Family Children's Hospital liaison to coordinate forensic services for children and adolescents.

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

Distribute printed and digital copies of the Wayne County SAFE Protocol and SAFE plan to member agencies, and meet annually in February to develop, implement, and review county protocol to meet legislative requirements of the SAFE Commission. Goal: Implement SAFE protocol bi-yearly staff training at the member agencies to accommodate employee turnover and incorporate the SAFE protocol into all onboarding training for new employees.

Phone numbers to Activate Medical Forensic Protocol:

Cabell Huntington Hospital – 304-526-2200

St. Mary's Medical Center – 304-526-1111

Wayne County 911

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
- Victims with medical emergencies will be transported by Wayne County Emergency Medical Service (WCEMS) at no cost to the victim.
 - Victims with disabilities will be transported by WCEMS at no cost to the victim.
 - CONTACT will arrange free and confidential transportation to the emergency department for victims who do not have a means of transportation using the Uber business account.

- If transportation is provided by CONTACT (via Uber), law enforcement, or WCEMS, hospital will be notified of in-coming sexual assault victim.
- Victims will not register with the hospital and will not be placed on the directory during medical forensic exams to ensure their confidentiality.
- CONTACT will arrange free and confidential transportation from the emergency department to a safe location using its Uber business account.
- Victims with disabilities will be returned to their point of origin or an agreed upon safe location by WCEMS personnel at no cost to the victim.
- If Uber is unavailable, and a friend or family member is available to transport the victim from the medical center to a safe location, CONTACT can assist by offsetting the cost of gas with a gas card.
- If neither Uber nor other third-party transport is available, the CONTACT advocate will coordinate with the responding law enforcement agent to transport the victim to a safe location.
 - This may delay the transportation time from the medical facility to the safe location due to personnel availability.
 - Seat availability is determined by the law enforcement agent's vehicle and should only be coordinated as a last resort.

First responders will be informed of this Transportation Protocol by:

Distribute printed and digital copies of the Wayne County SAFE Protocol and SAFE plan to member agencies, and meet annually in February to develop, implement, and review county protocol to meet legislative requirements of the SAFE Commission. Goal: Implement SAFE protocol bi-yearly staff training at the member agencies to accommodate employee turnover and incorporate the SAFE protocol into all onboarding training for new employees.

Phone numbers to Activate Transportation Protocol:

Wayne County 911

OR

CONTACT Rape Crisis Center: 304-399-1111 or 1-866-399-7273