

Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Commission

Wirt County Service Plan

Austin Grimmert, Prosecuting Attorney

Local Board/SART Overview

To meet SAFE Commission standards, Wirt County has formalized a coordinated response through the creation of a *Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)*. Members of this local coordinated response collaboration include:

- Wirt County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- Wirt County Sheriff
- Wirt County Emergency Squad Director
- Family Crisis Intervention Center
- Wirt County Family Resource Network

The local board/SART meets/plans to meet annually 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 Certified 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 in Wirt County are provided by the Family Crisis Intervention Center (FCIC).

An advocate from FCIC will be contacted by law enforcement, Camden Clark, Wirt County Emergency Squad, or any other agency in need of services for victims by calling 304-275-8652 during business hours or 24/7 at 1-800-794-2335.

¹⁽¹⁾ In cases of child abuse perpetrated against an adolescent as defined by WV law, the local Child Advocacy Center or support will be contacted, and forensic services.

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

First responders will be informed of this Advocacy Protocol by:

The Wirt County SART will convene an annual meeting on the third Friday of January each year to ensure communication and cooperation of services and to ensure the plan is reevaluated, updated, and distributed. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office will send out a memo to all first responders to invite them to the information session. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office will then follow up the session by sending the plan to all first responding agencies who were unable to send their staff to the information session. In-person conversations with first responders will occur when needed to make sure they understand the plan and are sharing it with the rest of their staff. The SART and FCIC will work with first responders to add the plan to all onboarding procedures. They will be given copies of this service plan and a Wirt County Protocol for responding to victims of sexual assault by the Wirt County SART.

Phone numbers of rape crisis center to activate Advocacy Protocol:

During business hours: 304-275-8652

24/7: 1-800-794-2335

MEDICAL FORENSIC PROTOCOL

Services are provided via a letter of agreement with a medical facility from another county:

Camden Clark Medical Center
800 Garfield Ave
Parkersburg, WV 26101
304-424-2111

Medical forensic exams are provided by physicians and/or SANEs.

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

The Wirt County SART will convene an annual meeting on the third Friday of January each year to ensure communication and cooperation of services and to ensure the plan is reevaluated, updated, and distributed. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office will send out a memo to all first responders to invite them to the information session. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office will then follow up the session by sending the plan to all first responding agencies who were unable to send their staff to the information session. In-person conversations with first responders will occur when needed to make sure they understand the plan and are sharing it with the rest of their staff. The SART and FCIC will work with first responders to add the plan to all onboarding procedures. They will be given copies of this service plan and a Wirt County Protocol for responding to victims of sexual assault by the Wirt County SART.

Phone number of hospital to activate Medical Forensic Protocol: 304-424-2111

TRANSPORTATION PROTOCOL

The SAFE Commission requires that this protocol include the following 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 pay confidentiality.
4. Plan to return the victim to his or her point of origin (or an agreed upon safe place).

911 Call with Injuries. If a sexual assault victim calls 911 needing emergent medical care, EMS and the appropriate law enforcement agency will both respond.

- Wirt County Emergency Squad will transport the victim at no cost to the victim to the appropriate medical facility, Camden Clark Medical Center.
- IF the victim chooses to initiate a police investigation, the responding law enforcement Officer, either State Police or the Sheriff's Department, 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 exams are 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 later, and transport the victim to a safe location at no cost to the victim, if needed following the medical forensic exam.
- Victims with disabilities will be transported to a safe location by Camden Clark EMS, at NO cost to the victim.

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 emergent 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 the appropriate medical facility at no cost to the victim to Camden Clark Medical Center. 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 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 Medical Center at no cost to the victim. 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 later. Law enforcement will return when the medical forensic exam is complete to transport the victim to a safe location.
 - Victims with disabilities will be transported to Camden Clark Medical Center by EMS at NO cost to the victim.
3. **Call to Rape Crisis Center.** If a sexual assault victim contacts FCIC 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 then activate one of the protocols outlined in numbers 1 and 2 above.

Wirt County FCIC Outreach will provide victim transportation when available, necessary and safe to do so, and the victim requests transportation via FCIC's Outreach office.

First responders will be informed of this Transportation Protocol by:

The Wirt County SART will convene an annual meeting on the third Friday of January each year to ensure communication and cooperation of services and to ensure the plan is reevaluated, updated, and distributed. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office will send out a memo to all first responders to invite them to the information session. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office will then follow up the session by sending the plan to all first responding agencies who were unable to send their staff to the information session. In-person conversations with first responders will occur when needed to make sure they understand the plan and are sharing it with the rest of their staff. The SART and FCIC will work with first responders to add the plan to all onboarding procedures. They will be given copies of this service plan and a Wirt County Protocol for responding to victims of sexual assault by the Wirt County SART.

Phone numbers to Activate Transportation Protocol:

Law Enforcement or emergency medical assistance: 911

Family Crisis Intervention Center:

FCIC Wirt County Outreach (during business hours): 304-275-8652
24/7-hour hotline: 1-800-794-2335