

# Module 5

# Procedures in Common Advocacy Situations

*OVC Can Help You Put the Pieces Together*



**OVCTTAC**

# Learning Objectives

- ❖ **Respond appropriately to a caller on a crisis line who is reporting a recent sexual assault.**
- ❖ **Identify correct procedures during a medical-evidentiary exam.**
- ❖ **Create a list of “dos and don’ts” for law enforcement statement accompaniment and courtroom accompaniment.**
- ❖ **Differentiate the roles of advocates, SANEs, and other SART members.**
- ❖ **Identify special procedures and “red flags” for dealing with drug-facilitated sexual assault.**

# Responding to a Crisis Call

- ❖ **Identify immediate concerns.**
- ❖ **Establish safety.**
- ❖ **Explain services.**
- ❖ **Arrange transportation.**

# Responding to a Crisis Call

- ❖ **Discuss evidence.**
- ❖ **Address practical issues.**
- ❖ **Arrange a time to meet.**
- ❖ **Activate other first responders.**

# Medical-Evidentiary Exam

- ❖ **Within 72/96/120 hours (or longer; advocates must know local policy).**
- ❖ **Exceptions:**
  - **Hostage situations.**
  - **Force resulting in injury.**
  - **Ejaculation without cleanup.**

# Medical-Evidentiary Exam: Yes or No?

- ❖ **Sharon reported an assault that occurred 12 hours ago; there was no penetration or apparent injury.**
- ❖ **Jane reported an oral sexual assault that occurred 24 hours ago.**

# Medical-Evidentiary Exam: Yes or No?

- ❖ **Thomas reported a rape and robbery that occurred 5 hours ago.**
- ❖ **Maria reported a rape by two strangers that occurred 2 weeks ago.**



# *Activity*

## *Medical-Evidentiary Exam Case Study*

### *Worksheet 5.1*

- ❖ **Working in groups, read and discuss the worksheet, then answer the questions.**
- ❖ **Report to the large group.**

# Accessing Support

**The advocate and, if available, the SANE should be called to the emergency department automatically, not at the victim's request.**

# Advocates and SANEs

- ❖ **May do some of the same things during crisis intervention, but the roles are distinct.**
- ❖ **Reinforce each other; the victim hears the same things (it's not your fault, your reaction is normal, etc.) from two people, helping to normalize the victim's reaction.**
- ❖ **Advocate should never be involved in evidence collection.**

# Dealing With Emergency Department Delays

- ❖ **Up to 1 hour delay is common, even when there is a SANE program.**
- ❖ **If the victim is waiting for the SANE to arrive, it may be helpful to explain the SANE's role.**
- ❖ **Report consistent, unexplained delays to the advocate supervisor, who can speak to the emergency room supervisor or SANE supervisor.**

# Dealing With Conflicts or Problems

**Report any problems to the  
advocate supervisor.**

# Law Enforcement Statement Accompaniment

- ❖ **Law enforcement is part of your team.**
- ❖ **You may stay in the room or wait outside.**
- ❖ **The investigator usually asks the victim to verbally go through their statement in detail.**

# Law Enforcement Statement Accompaniment

- ❖ **The investigator will ask questions for clarification.**
- ❖ **Recording varies from area to area.**
- ❖ **Statement will usually be transcribed.**
- ❖ **The victim reviews and signs; this becomes their official account of the sexual assault.**



# If You Have Concerns During the Statement

- ❖ **Never interfere with the statement.**
- ❖ **Hold all comments or questions until after the statement is complete.**
- ❖ **Talk with the officer alone.**
- ❖ **Talk with the victim, allowing the victim to voice their feelings about the statement.**

# Courtroom Accompaniment

- ❖ You may accompany the victim to attorney appointments as well as the courtroom.
- ❖ The goal is to familiarize the victim with the process and the courtroom.
- ❖ If the case is plea bargained, work with the victim so they can express their opinion.
  - Many prosecutors will discuss options with victims.



# Support During a Case

- ❖ **If the prosecutor decides not to charge the case:**
  - **Go with the victim to the prosecutor's office to discuss the reasons why.**
- ❖ **If the assailant is found guilty by trial:**
  - **The victim may want you to go with them to the sentencing and provide support.**

# *Activity*

## *Dos and Don'ts*

- ❖ **In groups, design a 1-minute presentation on dos and don'ts for law enforcement statement or courtroom accompaniment.**
- ❖ **Present to the large group.**

# Activity

## *Information Search and “Red Flags”*

### *Worksheet 5.2*

- ❖ In small groups, use your manual to complete the worksheet.
- ❖ Write on your “red flags” possible indications of drug-facilitated sexual assault.
- ❖ Review in the large group.



# Review of Learning Objectives

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# End of Module 5

**Questions? Comments?**

