

Module 2

What is Sexual Assault Advocacy/Counseling?



Learning Objectives

- Describe the composition of a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART).
- Identify the major roles of an advocate.
- Make appropriate decisions about confidentiality based on state reporting laws.



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Tenets of Advocacy

- Provide victims with information about their options.
- Provide trauma-specific services.
- Work with the victim to develop an action plan.
- Listen and believe the victim.
- Neither investigate nor judge.
- Practice teamwork.



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Victim Options

The victim has the right to:

- Make his/her choice on whether to report a sexual assault.
- Decide whether or not a medical/forensic examination is conducted.



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SARTs and SANEs



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What do you know about Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART) and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE)?

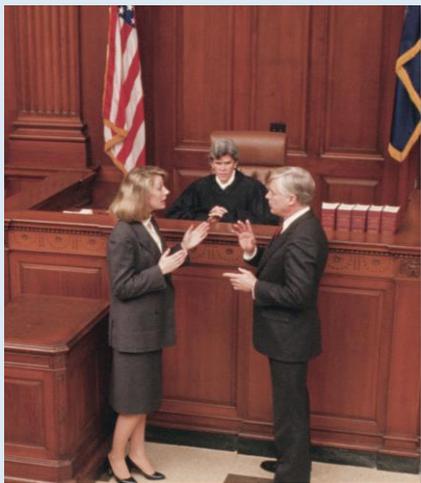


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Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART)



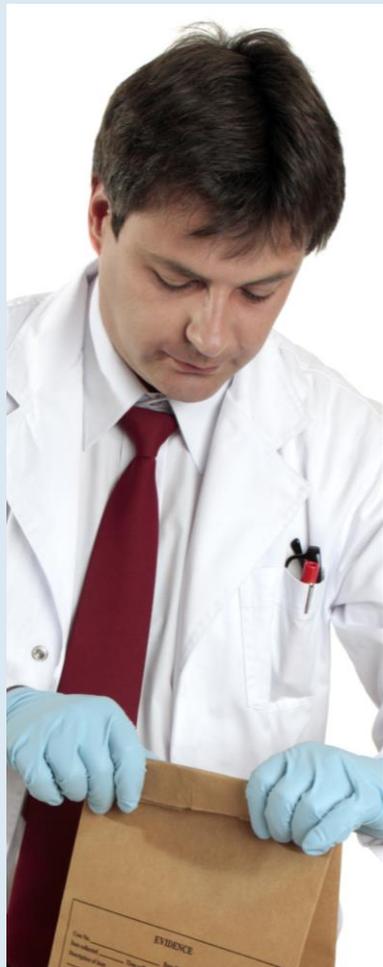
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- Group of individuals from different agencies who work with sexual assault victims.
- Effective model.
- Crisis intervention and long-term counseling.
- Investigation and evidence collection.
- More sensitive medical response to rape victims.

SART Membership Varies



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- At minimum, sexual assault advocate, medical personnel, law enforcement, prosecutor, and crime laboratory specialist.
- May also include domestic violence victim advocates, clergy, and other social service agency personnel.



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Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE)

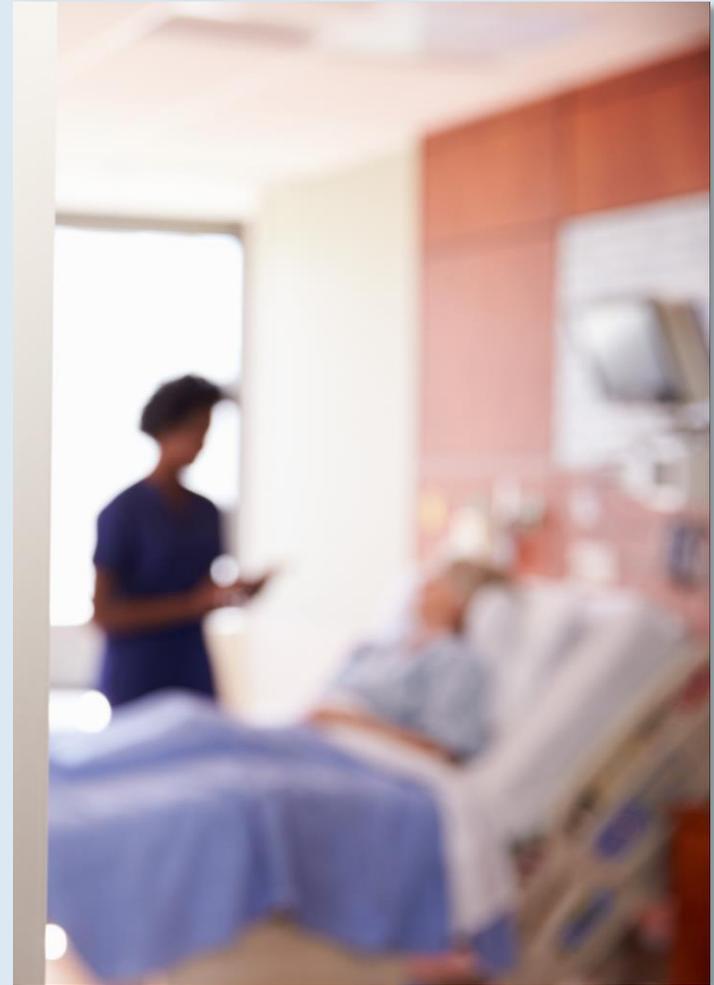
- Medical professionals who participate in a SART.
- Specially trained medical providers.
- Trained to understand that the exam purpose is to address patient's health care and emotional needs.
- Better evidence collection and more sensitive initial medical response.



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Need for SANEs

- Long waits.
- Could not eat, drink, or urinate while waiting.
- Doctors and nurses had insufficient training.
- Improper evidence collection.
- Proper exams are time consuming.
- Medical professionals fear subpoenas.



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Teamwork

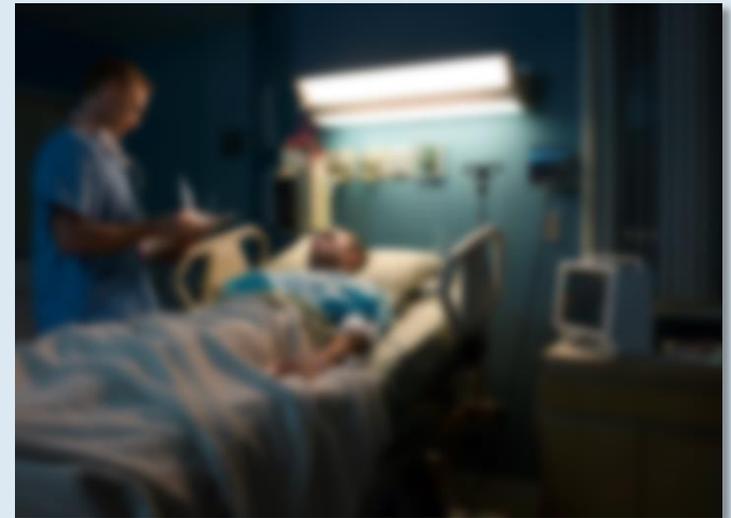
- Rape crisis center, advocacy, specialized training, and teamwork have greatly improved the quality of care for victims.
- Advocates provide a range of services for victims and families.



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Roles of the Advocate

- Crisis telephone line staffing.
- Medical-evidentiary exam response.
- Law enforcement statement accompaniment.
- Courtroom accompaniment.
- Family/significant other supportive counseling.
- Encourage/help facilitate SANE followup exam of indicated.



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Types of Advocates



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- Community-based advocates:
 - ◆ Work for independent organizations.
 - ◆ Can be present during a SANE exam.

- System-based advocates:
 - ◆ Are employed by the criminal justice system (i.e., law enforcement or prosecuting attorney's office).
 - ◆ Should not be present during a SANE exam.

Roles of the Advocate

- Walk-in crisis intervention.
- Individual, ongoing supportive counseling.
- Support-group facilitation.



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Confidentiality



- It is the victim's right.
- It gives the victim control.
- It makes disclosure safe.

Confidentiality

Issues differ for advocates and SANEs.

- Rape crisis centers in many states have lobbied for legislation so advocates can't be subpoenaed; advocates must know limits of confidentiality.
- SANEs expect that everything the victim says can be admitted into evidence.

Ensure the victim knows the limits of confidentiality.

Activity



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Law Review Worksheet 2.1, Appendix A, and Appendix B

- Review the appendices:
 - ◆ Background on VAWA 2005, VAWA 2013, and Forensic Compliance.
 - ◆ HIPAA Privacy Guidelines and Sexual Assault Crisis Centers.
- Complete the worksheet.

Maintaining Confidentiality Means...

- Not talking to the media.
- Not using the victim's name when discussing with coworkers.
- Not discussing cases with your family.
- Not talking about cases on an elevator or in a public place.
- Not using any details of cases for training purposes.



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Review of Learning Objectives

- Describe the composition of a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART).
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End of Module 2

Questions? Comments?



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