

 **Training
by Request**
An OVC Program

Module 2
What Is Sexual Assault
Advocacy/Counseling?






Learning Objectives 

- Describe the composition of a SART.
- Identify the major roles of an advocate.
- Make appropriate decisions about confidentiality based on state reporting laws.

2-2

Tenets of Advocacy 

- Provide information about choices.
- Trauma-specific.
- Listen and believe.
- Neither investigate nor judge.
- Teamwork.

2-3

SARTs and SANEs



What do you know about Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs)?

2-4

Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs)



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

2-5

SART Membership Varies



- 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.

2-6

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs)



- Medical professionals who participate in a SART.
- Specially trained nurses.
- Trained to complete a medical-legal exam of rape victims.
- Better evidence collection and more sensitive initial medical response.

2-7

Need for SANEs



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

2-8

Teamwork



- Rape crisis centers, advocacy, specialized training, and teamwork have greatly improved the quality of care for rape victims.
- Be clear about roles.
- Be respectful of roles.

2-9

Roles of the Advocate



- Crisis telephone line.
- Medical-evidentiary exam response.
- Law enforcement statement accompaniment.
- Courtroom accompaniment.
- Family/significant other supportive counseling.

2-10

Roles of the Advocate



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

2-11

Confidentiality



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

2-12

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 limits to confidentiality.

2-13

Activity



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.

2-14

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.

2-15

Review of Learning Objectives

- Describe the composition of a SART.
- Identify the major roles of an advocate.
- Make appropriate decisions about confidentiality based on state reporting laws.

2-16

End of Module 2

Questions? Comments?



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