



**Training
by Request**
An OVC Program

Module 8
Procedures in Common
Advocacy Situations



Learning Objectives 

- Respond appropriately to a caller on a crisis line who is reporting a recent sexual assault.
- Identify correct procedures during a medical-forensic 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.

8-2

Responding to a Crisis Call 

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

8-3

Responding to a Crisis Call, continued



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

8-4

Medical-Forensic Exam Timeframe



Within 72/96/120 hours (or longer; advocates must know local policy).

Exceptions:

- Hostage situations.
- Force resulting in injury.
- Ejaculation without cleanup.

8-5

Medical-Forensic 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.



8-6

Medical-Forensic 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.



8-7

Activity

*Medical-Forensic Exam
Case Study
Worksheet 8.1*

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

8-8

Accessing Support

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

8-9

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 (e.g., 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.

8-10

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 your supervisor, who can speak to the emergency room supervisor or SANE supervisor.

8-11

Dealing With Conflicts or Problems



Never try to "fix" any issues with the SART yourself. Report any problems to your supervisor.

8-12

Law Enforcement Statement Accompaniment



- You are there to support the victim,
- Do not interrupt any part of the interview; you can address any concerns when the interview is completed.
- Law enforcement is part of your team.
- It is important that victims tell the complete truth.

8-13

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.



8-14

If You Have Concerns During the Statement



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

8-15

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.
- Many prosecutors will discuss options with victims.
- If the case is plea bargained, work with the victim so they can express their opinion.



8-16

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.
- The victim impact statement is taken into consideration by the judge when determining the sentence.

8-17

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.

8-18

Information Search and "Red Flags"
Worksheet 8.2



- 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.

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Questions? Comments?


