

## **Sexual Assault Response Team Interactive Scenario Training**

Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART) are expected to work together, but they rarely get to train together. This 2-day onsite training is an opportunity for SARTs to train as a team to solve a simulated sexual assault crime from the initial victim interview to the trial.

SART members will:

- Learn how law enforcement and advocates deal with reluctant witnesses and make tough decisions about admissible evidence.
- Follow the crime from the initial report, through medical and crime scene evidence collection, to the trial.
- Learn about the different elements of building a successful prosecution in a sexual assault case through eight interactive sessions.

### **Module 1: Victim Interview by Law Enforcement**

SART members will interview a victim who is disclosing a sexual assault. During this session, participants learn how to conduct a comprehensive interview of the victim while being sensitive to the victim's needs and how to ask probing questions to elicit difficult information while avoiding placing any blame on the victim or being critical of their conduct.

### **Module 2: The Rape Crisis Center**

Addressing the role of the advocate, this session starts with a call to the local rape crisis center by another possible victim of the same assailant. She is not sure she wants to talk to law enforcement. The victim and the advocate talk about her concerns, options, and what the investigation will involve.

### **Module 3: Crime Scene Investigation**

Not all crime scenes yield forensic evidence, but SART members must be prepared to recover forensic evidence or explain why it is absent. During this session, participants will process a mock crime scene and use accepted methods for crime scene evidence collection and preservation. The case may have multiple crime scenes, and participants will gain experience in identifying potential crime scenes and the types of evidence they may contain.

### **Module 4: Victim Medical-Legal Examination**

This session will focus on the medical-legal evidentiary examination of the sexual assault victim. Key items for discussion during this session include controversial issues, such as the examination of the intoxicated patient and the unconscious patient; the five components of the sexual assault evidentiary exam; crisis intervention and followup needs; and a review of the four uses of evidence found on the victim's body.

### **Module 5: Laboratory Analysis Results, DNA 101 & DFSA**

In this session, SART members will be presented with a variety of lab results (e.g., a DNA profile foreign to the victim, evidence that the victim was or was not positive for certain drugs) and be asked to consider potential directions the case could take in light of the implications from the evidence in each different variation.

### **Module 6: Suspect Interview**

In this session, SART members interview potential suspects. Participants learn effective strategies that can increase the information gained from a suspect and learn to recognize the legal principles under which one conducts an interview.

### **Module 7: Trial Preparation and Charging Decisions**

In this session, the SART detective and prosecutor present the case to a senior prosecutor to have charges authorized to proceed with a felony prosecution. Participants learn that only through the collaboration of the SART can adequate information be developed to make a proper legal assessment of the case. The SARTs should be able to anticipate potential problems in order to develop a comprehensive trial strategy.

### **Module 8: Mock Trial**

The work of the SART is not over until the criminal trial is completed. All team members must be thoroughly prepared to address their actions in the case in order to provide convincing testimony to a jury. In this session, a prosecutor will conduct the direct examination of the victim, as well as examine the SANE nurse and case detective who are part of the SART. Participants will develop strategies for how each team member can present their testimony effectively so that it is both focused and convincing.

For more information about the SART Interactive Scenarios Training, go to

[www.SANE-SART.com](http://www.SANE-SART.com)

