



Cuyahoga County Sexual Assault Response Team

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

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It is nationally recognized that a coordinated community approach is necessary for the appropriate care of individuals who have been sexually assaulted. In communities across the country, the recognized benefits of Sexual Assault Response Teams are manifold. These include:

- Ensuring consistent, sensitive services for individuals who have been sexually assaulted
- Identifying gaps in services
- Cross-training among team members
- Strengthening collaboration among team members
- Increasing reporting rates
- Improving forensic evidence collection
- Increasing prosecution rates¹

The Cuyahoga County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), a multidisciplinary collaborative, was formed in Cuyahoga County to facilitate this process and enhance existing viable services in our community. By signing this document, each agency indicates its commitment to supporting this partnership in the following ways:

- 1) Committing to uphold countywide standards of practice to ensure consistent responses to individuals who have been sexually assaulted;
- 2) Providing equal access to services for all individuals regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, income, ability, language, age, religion or other personal characteristics; and
- 3) Developing and maintaining professional relationships through respectful communication and cross-disciplinary education among team members.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Organization: _____

¹ Ledray, Linda E. (August 2001) "Forensic Evidence Collection and Care of the Sexual Assault Survivor: The SANE-SART Response." Violence Against Women Resources, pp. 1-14.