

# San Diego County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

## Standards of Practice

For Members of the Interdisciplinary SART Team (pp 24-25)

### First Response Volunteer Advocate

- ⌘ Successfully completes the required Office of Criminal Justice Planning (OCJP) training and orientation to the SART facility or other training as specified
- ⌘ Arrives within the designated time frame given at the time of the call from the Emergency Department triage nurse
- ⌘ Greets the victim, introduces self and explains advocate's role
- ⌘ Supports the victim during the medical-legal examination
- ⌘ Advocates on behalf of the victim/survivor's rights when necessary and appropriate
- ⌘ Removes her/himself from any part of the process that the patient does not want the advocate to attend
- ⌘ Does not participate in evidence collection for the SAFE
- ⌘ Does not remain in examination room alone with evidence
- ⌘ When presented with conflicting needs, defers to the choice of the victim/survivor (stay with victim or bring victim a refreshment)
- ⌘ Offers various support measure options for the victim/survivor
- ⌘ Facilitates informed decision-making
- ⌘ Converses, reinforces explanations, queries regarding understanding, reassures during the examination
- ⌘ Aids SAFE in monitoring tolerance of victim/survivor
- ⌘ Provides information, referrals and education to victim/survivor
- ⌘ Provides a written copy of Victim's Rights to the victim/survivor

- ⌘ Assesses sense of safety at time of discharge and helps to arrange for safe housing if placement is needed
- ⌘ Facilitates communications between all SART members and the victim/survivor with the exception of translation
- ⌘ Reinforces explanations by SAFE, law enforcement, prosecution and professional counselor when appropriate
- ⌘ Informs the family/friend(s) in the waiting room at the victim/survivor's request
- ⌘ Provides support for the family/friend(s) of victim/survivor
- ⌘ Acts as a liaison between SART members and the victim/survivor once a waiver has been obtained from the victim
- ⌘ Understands that they may be subpoenaed
- ⌘ At the request of the victim/survivor and as appropriate for an advocate, assists with comfort needs, without participating in the medically invasive procedures
- ⌘ Offers comfort measures during and after the medical-legal examination (shower, clothing, food, drink, access to parent support person)
- ⌘ Ensures that the victim leaves the SART facility safely, with family, friend, or law enforcement
- ⌘ Does not transport
- ⌘ Debriefs with SAFE to facilitate interdisciplinary communications with signed consent
- ⌘ Provides input to the SART, as an interdisciplinary member with signed consent
- ⌘ Respects the human dignity and the uniqueness of the victim, unrestricted by considerations of racial, age, social or economic status, personal attributes, or the nature of the health problems
- ⌘ Maintains respect for the victim/survivor in interdisciplinary communications
- ⌘ Maintains confidential communications

### Rape Crisis Advocate /SAVI Advocate

The SAVI Advocates are active-duty military volunteers and provide care as in the First Response Volunteer Advocate above, with the following additions:

- ⌘ Employees of the Rape Crisis Center
- ⌘ Provides follow-up services within 72 hours post medical-legal exam
- ⌘ Accompanies the victim/survivor to interviews by detective/law enforcement, district attorney or the defense attorney
- ⌘ Provides emotional support to the victim/survivor throughout the criminal justice process and beyond
- ⌘ Facilitates access to ongoing services as needed
- ⌘ Acts as a liaison for the victim/survivor between members of the team to address questions, concerns, needs
- ⌘ Works collaboratively with team members to ensure the provision of the quality services to the victim/survivor