



## **Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)**

### **What is a SART?**

A Sexual Assault Response Team is a community's multi-disciplinary coordinated victim centered, "team" response for responding to crimes of sexual violence. The SART core members are typically inclusive of Victim Advocates, Law Enforcement, Forensic-Medical Professionals, and the District Attorney's Office.

- Multi-disciplinary
- Coordinated
- Team
- Victim Centered
- Response Focused (Protocols/Interagency Agreements)
- Core Members

### **Who is a member of the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)?**

- Victim Advocates
- Law Enforcement
- Prosecuting Attorneys
- SANEs
- Crime Lab

## What does a SART do?

Adopted from the American College of Emergency Physicians. Evaluation and Management of the Sexually Assaulted or Sexually Abused Patient. Dallas, TX, 1999.

- Alert each other to the need for services
- Respond to victims in a timely manner
- Share initial case information and determine evidence collection needs, address special concerns and reduce the need to duplicate questions
- Interview victims
- Perform medical examination and collect forensic evidence
- Provide clothing and toiletries for the victim
- Support and inform the victim's significant others, as appropriate
- Store and deliver forensic evidence in a timely manner
- Contact other SART members to discuss their involvement in the case
- Follow-up contact and assistance with victims
- Problem solve on specific issues
- Communicate on the progress of individual cases the overall effectiveness of the SART process

## **Benefits of SART**

- The Utilization of SARTs has proven to increase reporting and conviction rates
- Visualization of microscopic traces of injury has been greatly improved by the advances made in specialized equipment that is used in the forensic exam. This lessens the prosecution's burden of proving consensual or nonconsensual sex
- The protocol guidelines decrease chances of errors and lapses in evidence collection reducing the defense of inadmissible
- Evidence

## **Why should a community start a SART?**

- Improve evidence collection
- Increase prosecution rates
- Increase reporting
- Reduce Costs
- Reduce incidences of re-Traumatizing the victim
- Meets the needs of individual communities

## **The Role of Each SART Member**

### **SANE**

- Support the victim
- Provide information and referrals to needed services
- Obtain victim's detailed history
- Conduct a head –to-toe assessment
- Detailed genital examination
- Collect high quality forensic evidence
- Provide documentation of findings
- Provide follow-up referrals/education
- Provide expert court testimony

### **Law Enforcement:**

- Provide safety to victim
- Interview victim
- Interview perpetrator
- Apprehend suspect
- Conduct criminal investigation
- Build case for prosecutor

### **Victim Advocate/Agency**

- Provide Support
- Crisis Intervention

- 24 hr. Crisis Hotline
- Hospital accompaniment
- Provide Information and referrals
- Provide clothing and toiletry items
- Follow-up Advocacy