

Incarcerated Victims

SART Listserv

February 2007

Issue: SART protocols for incarcerated victims

Background: When a prisoner (female or male) presenting as a sexual assault survivor is brought to an emergency room, do you send an advocate? Do you have special literature or services for this population?

Alaska (Fairbanks)

- Inmates sent to our facility are treated the same as non-incarcerated victims;
- Advocates are activated and we provide the same resources.

California

- We have a very large prison population in this state and on the rare occasion when a prisoner reports the sexual violence, an advocate usually goes out.
- There is often retribution against prisoners who report rape, so the vast majority of prisoner rape is still going unreported.
- Stop Prisoner Rape has resources that could be used along with local information for assistance to survivors. <http://www.spr.org/en/selfhelp.asp>

Kansas (Hutchinson)

- We have prisoners present a couple of times a year.
- They are always accompanied by guards, who stay in the room during the exam.
- If they are shackled we work around them as much as possible limiting the time they are unshackled.
- Prison detectives investigate incidents and receive the forensic kits.
- We do not involve the advocates.
- We don't have specific literature but it would be good to develop such literature.

Kansas (Wichita)

- The SANE/SART program in Wichita, Kansas activates advocates from the local sexual assault center for incarcerated victims (male or female).
- No specific literature has been developed.
- Services offered are the same as those for non-incarcerated victims:
 - Victims are given the option to have the advocate stay with them during the exam.
 - Victims receive information packets and are offered follow-up services. Advocates from the local sexual assault center can remain in contact with the victim via phone or in person at the jail to offer follow-up crisis and support services, court advocacy, etc.

- At our county jail, a domestic violence advocate from a local shelter currently leads a support group for domestic violence victims. The Coordinator of Victim Services at the sexual assault center will be joining her once a month to offer information and support in relation to sexual violence.
- The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence is currently working on the issue of prison rape and may offer resources and insight into prison rape issues and services. Their website is www.kcsdv.org and their phone number is 785-232-9784.

Maryland (Towson)

- We have one SAFE program in our jurisdiction that has contract with the jail. Any prisoners reporting sexual assault are taken to the SAFE program.
- We send an advocate if the SAFE program calls us.
- We offer to contact the prison rape project on behalf of the prisoner if they consent, as we have no way to follow up with the victim once s/he returns to the jail.
- Victims report assaults by inmate(s) as well as by guards.

Michigan (Battle Creek)

- Advocates are activated for all SA victims.

Ohio (Cleveland)

- We do not make any distinction of the patient.
- All services are provided including follow up information.
- We offer to call an advocate to come to the hospital.

Wisconsin

- Most of our programs accompany incarcerated victims regardless of their sex.
- We have not created any protocols. We are in the very early stages of our PREA work.
- At least one security officer accompanies a victim during the exam.
- Some hospitals have neglected to call advocates when the presenting victim has been a male, but our programs have indicated that they would accompany males as well.

Resources

Hope for Healing: Information for Survivors of Sexual Assault in Detention

<http://www.spr.org/pdf/HopeforHealingweb.pdf>

An End to Silence: Prisoners' Handbook on Identifying and Addressing Sexual Misconduct <http://www.spr.org/pdf/smithhandbook.pdf>

Survivor Resource Guide

<http://www.spr.org/en/resourceguides/main.asp>

The Resource Guide for Survivors of Rape Behind Bars is the first comprehensive guide to legal and psychological counseling resources for survivors who are still incarcerated, those who have been released, and loved ones on the outside who are searching for ways to help.

The information in this guide is listed by state, and within each state we list both mental health resources and legal service providers.

Prisoner-to-Prisoner Advice <http://www.spr.org/en/ppadvice.asp>

Prison Rape Elimination Act <http://www.spr.org/pdf/PREA.pdf>

National Institute of Corrections- Prison Rape Elimination Act

<http://community.nicic.org/tags/National+Institute+of+Corrections/default.aspx>

Meeting the Needs of Prison Rape Victims: A Technical Assistance Guide for Sexual Assault Counselors and Advocates.

<http://pcar.org/resources/PrisonRapeGuide.pdf>.

This guide is intended to support rape crisis counselors and advocates in providing services to victims of prison rape. To that end, the guide includes an overview of the problem of prison rape, outreach strategies, ethical discussions, and things to keep in mind when working in a prison setting.