

HOW IS THE SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM CONTACTED?

The Sexual Assault Response Team can be contacted by telephoning any of the following:

- Local Police Department or **911**
- Somerset Medical Center/Emergency Department
908-658-2920
- Sexual Assault Support Services (S.A.S.S.) Hot Line
908-526-7444

IF YOU HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED:

- Go to a safe place.
- Seek immediate assistance by calling 911.
- Do not change or wash your clothes. If clothing is already removed, collect clothing in a paper bag and bring it with you to the exam site or police department.
- Do not bathe/shower or douche.
- Do not eat, drink, smoke, gargle or brush teeth.
- Do not urinate or defecate if possible. If urination is urgent, collect urine in a glass container and bring it with you to the exam site.
- Do not wash your hands or clean your nails.

WHY SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION?

Medical attention is recommended as soon as possible for several reasons. There may be visible external injuries that need to be treated such as cuts or bruises. There may also be internal injuries that can only be detected through the use of special equipment used during the medical-forensic exam.

Concerns regarding sexually transmitted disease, pregnancy, medical aftercare and psychological care are addresses during the examination.

Medical aftercare is very important to ensure injuries have healed properly and sexually transmitted infections are treated appropriately. Tests for infections and pregnancy must be repeated.

For more information regarding the S.A.R.T. Program or questions regarding sexual assault, please contact the following:

SDAG, Laurie Head-Melillo

Dorothy DiFabio
SANE Coordinator 908-575-3426

Irene Lebbad
SASS Coordinator 908-526-2335 ext.130

Deborah McGowan
Victim Witness Coordinator 908-575-3405

Sgt. Roxanna Catterson 908-575-3422

Somerset County Prosecutor's Office

40 North Bridge Street
P.O. Box 3000 • Somerville, NJ 08876-1262
908-575-3300
www.scpo.net

TIPS HOTLINE 1-888-577-TIPS (8477)

S.A.R.T. Sexual Assault Response Team



Somerset County
Prosecutor's Office

S.A.R.T. - Sexual Assault Response Team

WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT?

In New Jersey any unwanted or non-consensual sexual act, which involves penetration of the mouth, vagina, or anus, regardless of depth, is considered a crime of sexual assault.

Offenders are often someone known to the victim such as an acquaintance, friend, date, spouse or family member.

Victims may be any age, gender or social class.

Although every victim responds to sexual assault differently and heals differently, sexual assault will impact a victim in some way emotionally and physically.

In order to ease victims through the aftermath of a sexual assault, Somerset County has developed a Sexual Assault Response Team to provide timely and compassionate support, information, assistance and a means to prosecute.

WHAT IS A SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM?

The Sexual Assault Response Team (S.A.R.T.) is comprised of a sexual assault nurse examiner (S.A.N.E.), a confidential sexual violence advocate and a law enforcement agent. The S.A.R.T. uses a team approach in providing a compassionate comprehensive medical care, emotional support, information, assistance, evidence collection and investigation of incidents of sexual assault. Most importantly, the S.A.R.T. is "**Victim Centered,**" encouraging victims to make informed decisions regarding their care and treatment.

S.A.N.E.: A Forensic Nurse Certified in Sexual Assault examinations who will perform a medical-forensic examination of the victim. The S.A.N.E. will obtain a medical history and information regarding the sexual assault. Examination and evidence collection is driven by the assault history. The S.A.N.E. offers victims preventative treatment for sexually transmitted diseases. The S.A.N.E. also offers medication to prevent pregnancy, which may result from the sexual assault. Follow up discharge instruction and information is provided and reviewed with each client.

Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate: A specially trained individual who will provide crisis intervention and emotional support throughout the medical and investigative process. The advocate will provide the victim with a safe, neutral and confidential avenue to explore and weigh options.

Law Enforcement Officer: An officer/detective who is trained in the investigation of sexual assault. The law enforcement officer will ensure immediate safety and security of the victim. The officer/detective will obtain information regarding the assault and investigate in a non-judgemental manner.

The members of the S.A.R.T. form a coordinated, multi-disciplinary response to crimes of sexual assault. Our goal is to provide the highest standard of care and services available in a compassionate and timely manner.

All services provided by the S.A.R.T. are free of charge.

WHEN IS THE SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM ACTIVATED?

The Sexual Assault Response Team may be activated 24 hours a day/7 days a week providing:

- The victim is **13 years of age or older;**
- The assault occurred **within the last 5 days;** and
- The victim chooses the S.A.R.T. services.

The victim may choose to activate all team members or individual disciplines.

WHERE ARE SERVICES AVAILABLE?

Somerset Medical Center
Emergency Department
110 Rehill Avenue
Somerville, New Jersey 08876
908-685-2920

For children under 13 years of age, a separate program is in effect. Children under the age of 13 may receive an acute medical forensic examination by a S.A.N.E. at the Somerset Medical Center if indicated, or may receive care and treatment of sexual assault at the following center:

Dorothy B. Hersh Regional Child Protection Center
123 How Lane
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901
732-448-1000 (main)
888-491-3841 (toll free)
732-296-1521 (after hours)