

ADVOCACY SERVICES

A GUIDE TO HOW RAPE CRISIS CENTER
ADVOCATES HELP VICTIMS THROUGH
THE MEDICAL AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
SYSTEM AFTER SEXUAL VIOLENCE

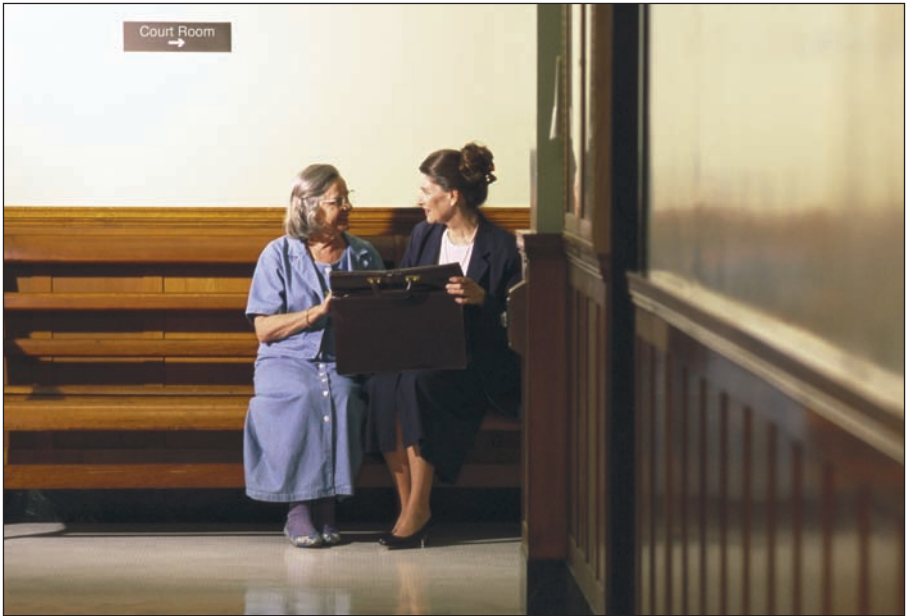


If you, or someone you know, has been sexually assaulted or sexually abused, this booklet is for you. It contains information on assistance available to victims of sexual assault.



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WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

After you have been sexually assaulted, you may want someone to assist you with what happens next. A rape crisis center advocate can be that person. Advocates provide free, victim-centered services.

You may want to go to the hospital for medical care. You may decide to report the rape to the police. You may want to file criminal charges against the attacker. During each step, you can get help from an **advocate**. The advocate will provide you information and assistance at the hospital, police station and through the court process. This help is called **advocacy**.

This booklet explains how to find an advocate and what she can do for you.

WHAT IS AN ADVOCATE?

A rape crisis center advocate supports the sexual assault victim. She brings comfort, support and information for the victim and her loved ones.

The advocate knows:

- About the medical care a victim receives after the assault;
- How the police can help;
- How the court system works.

She is the victim's personal link to the medical, police and court systems.

An advocate knows the workers at the hospital, police station, State's Attorney's office and courthouse. She helps them understand sexual assault and support the victim. She works with these people to help the victim. The advocate is available for the victim through every step of every process.

The victim does not pay for an advocate's help. **Services from rape crisis centers are free and confidential.**

HOW DO I CONTACT AN ADVOCATE?

There are several ways a victim or her family and friends can contact an advocate.

- **Call the nearest rape crisis center.** Each center has a 24-hour crisis hotline. The locations and telephone numbers are listed in the back of this booklet and at www.icasa.org.
- **At the hospital emergency room** ask a nurse or other hospital employee to call an advocate.
- **Call the police.** Ask the police to call an advocate.

An advocate can be contacted at any time after the assault to help a victim. If the victim has already reported to the police or received medical care, an advocate can still help the victim with follow-up care and through the court system.

WHAT DOES AN ADVOCATE DO?

After a sexual assault, a victim has several decisions to make. A victim may call a rape hotline. She may go to the hospital emergency room. She may call the police.

At each step, the advocate explains to the victim what will happen.

She helps the victim understand her choices and the decisions she is making. She protects the victim's right to be respected at all times. The advocate speaks up for the victim's rights and wishes. She will help the victim get information about her case.

The advocate works with the victim when the victim is:

- **Going to the hospital;**
- **Reporting to the police;**
- **Going to court.**

During all times the victim can ask the advocate to talk with hospital staff, police and State's Attorneys on her behalf.

AT THE HOSPITAL

The victim or hospital staff can call for an advocate to meet them at the hospital. The victim may ask the advocate for support in several ways. If the victim wants her to, the advocate will:

- Wait with the victim;
- Call the victim's family or friends;
- Explain the medical exam and the evidence collection procedure to the victim;
- Stay with the victim during the exam;
- Help the victim get emergency contraception;
- Bring clothes for the victim to wear home;
- Explain the role of law enforcement and help the victim decide if she wants to talk to police;
- Arrange transportation; and
- Give the victim information about how the rape crisis center can help her after she leaves the hospital.





REPORTING TO POLICE

If the victim chooses to report the attack to the police, the advocate can:

- Go with her to report the assault;
- Explain how to report the assault to the police;
- Explain the victim's rights throughout the police investigation.

GOING TO COURT

The State's Attorney decides whether there is enough evidence to file criminal charges in a case. The State's Attorney is the lawyer who prosecutes the attacker. The advocate will work with the State's Attorney to keep the victim updated on the case and make sure the victim's rights are respected.

During the court process, the advocate can:

- Go with the victim to the State's Attorney's office and be available to discuss how the case will be handled;
- Talk with the State's Attorney about charges being filed;
- Explain the trial process to the victim, answer her questions and get information for her;
- Work with the State's Attorney to prepare the victim to testify at the trial;
- Go to court with the victim when she testifies;
- Keep the victim updated on the case;
- Contact the victim's employer to explain why she may need to miss work (or school) to go to court;
- Help the victim write a Victim Impact Statement to give to the judge if the attacker is convicted.

If the State's Attorney does not file charges, it does not mean the assault didn't happen. It only means there is not enough evidence to charge the offender.

FOLLOW-UP CARE

Advocates help victims after the initial hospital visit or meeting with police.

An advocate can go with the victim to follow-up appointments with medical personnel at the hospital or doctor's office.

Advocates work with the hospital to make sure victims are not billed for hospital services.

Advocates also help victims file for crime victim compensation funds administered by the State of Illinois. Advocates have access to the applications and will guide the victim through the process.

WHAT AN ADVOCATE CAN'T DO

An advocate can assist the victim in several ways; however, there are certain things that the advocate can't do. The advocate does not attempt to influence the victim's decision to report or file charges. The advocate does not investigate the case or testify in the case.

An advocate does not counsel the victim. As part of helping the victim through the medical, police and court systems, the advocate talks with the victim about her feelings during these steps. **But, if a victim wants more counseling, the advocate will find a counselor at the rape crisis center to help the victim with her emotional recovery from the attack. ICASA rape crisis centers provide free and confidential counseling.**

ICASA RAPE CRISIS CENTERS ...

■ NORTH

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

Northwest CASA
24 hrs. 888-802-8890
www.nwcasa.org

AURORA

Mutual Ground, Inc.
24 hrs. 630-897-8383
www.mutualgroundinc.com

BELVIDERE*

Rockford Sexual Assault
Counseling, Inc.
24 hrs. 815-636-9811

BERWYN*

The C.A.R.E. Center
24 hrs. 708-482-9600

CHICAGO HEIGHTS

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago
South Suburban Center Sexual
Violence and Support Services
24 hrs. 708-748-5672
www.ywcachicago.org

CRYSTAL LAKE*

Northwest CASA
24 hrs. 888-802-8890

DEKALB

Safe Passage, Inc.
24 hrs. 815-756-5228
www.safepassagedv.org

DIXON*

YWCA of the Sauk Valley
24 hrs. 815-288-1011

ELGIN

Community Crisis Center
24 hrs. 847-697-2380
www.crisiscenter.org

EVANSTON*

Northwest CASA
24 hrs. 888-802-8890

FREEPORT

VOICES
24 hrs. 815-232-7200

GALENA

Riverview Center Inc.
24 hrs. 888-707-8155
www.riverviewcenter.org

GLENDALE HEIGHTS

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago
Patterson and McDaniel
Family Center
24 hrs. 630-971-3927
www.ywcachicago.org

HICKORY HILLS

The Pillars Community
Services
24 hrs. 708-482-9600
www.pillarscommunity.org

JOLIET

Sexual Assault Service Center
Guardian Angel Community
Services
24 hrs. 815-730-8984
www.gacsprograms.org

KANKAKEE

Kankakee County Center
Against Sexual Assault
24 hrs. 815-932-3322
www.kc-casa.org

MOUNT CARROLL*

Riverview Center
Carroll County
24 hrs. 877-273-7772

OTTAWA

ADV & SAS
24 hrs. 800-892-3375

PONTIAC*

ADV & SAS
24 hrs. 800-892-3375

PRINCETON

Freedom House, Inc.
24 hrs. 800-474-6031
www.freedomhouseillinois.com

QUAD CITIES

Rape/Sexual Assault
Counseling Program
Family Resources, Inc.
24 hrs. 309-797-1777
www.famres.org

ROCHELLE*

Rockford Sexual Assault
Counseling, Inc.
24 hrs. 815-636-9811

ROCKFORD

Rockford Sexual Assault
Counseling, Inc.
24 hrs. 815-636-9811
www.rsaonline.org

STERLING

YWCA of the Sauk Valley
24 hrs. 815-626-7277
www.ywca.org/saukvalley

STREATOR

ADV & SAS
24 hrs. 800-892-3375
www.advsas.org

WATSEKA*

Iroquois Sexual Assault
Services.
24 hrs. 815-432-0420

■ CHICAGO

**Chicago 24-Hour Hotline
1-888-293-2080**

RAPE VICTIM ADVOCATES

www.rapevictimadvocates.org

- *Stroger Hospital of Cook County**
- *Austin**
- *Northside**

MUJERES LATINAS EN ACCION

www.mujeerlatinasenaccion.org

YWCA METROPOLITAN CHICAGO SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

www.ywcachicago.org

- *YWCA Metropolitan Chicago Laura Parks and Mildred Francis Center**
- *Englewood**
- *Logan Square**
- *YWCA Metropolitan Chicago RISE Children's Center**

ADVOCACY SERVICES

ICASA RAPE CRISIS CENTERS ...

■ **CENTRAL**

BLOOMINGTON

Stepping Stones Sexual Assault Services
YWCA McLean County
24 hrs. 309-827-4005
www.ywcamclean.org

BROWN COUNTY*

Quanada Sexual Assault Program
24 hrs. 800-369-2287

CHARLESTON/MATTOON

Sexual Assault Counseling & Information Service
24 hrs. 888-345-2846
www.sacis.org

DANVILLE

Vermillion County Rape Crisis Center
24 hrs. 866-617-3224
www.vcrapecrisiscenter.org

DECATUR

Growing Strong Sexual Assault Center
24 hrs. 217-428-0770
www.growingstrongcenter.org

JACKSONVILLE*

Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault
24 hrs. 217-753-8081

MACOMB

Western Illinois Regional Council/Community Action Agency Victim Services
24 hrs. 309-837-5555
www.wirpc.org/victimservices

QUINCY

Quanada Sexual Assault Program
24 hrs. 800-369-2287
www.quanada.org

PEORIA

The Center for the Prevention of Abuse Sexual Assault Services
24 hrs. 309-691-4111 or
800-559-SAFE
www.centerforpreventionofabuse.org

PITTSFIELD*

Quanada Pike County Satellite Office
24 hrs 800-369-2287

ROBINSON*

Counseling & Information for Sexual Assault/Abuse
24 hrs. 866-288-4888

SCHUYLER COUNTY*

Quanada Sexual Assault Program
24 hrs. 800-369-2287

SPRINGFIELD

Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault
24 hrs. 217-753-8081
www.prairiecasa.org

URBANA/CHAMPAIGN

Rape, Advocacy, Counseling and Education Services
24 hrs. 217-384-4444
or 877-236-3727
www.cu-races.org

■ **SOUTH**

BELLEVILLE

Call For Help, Inc. Sexual Assault Victims Care Unit
24 hrs. 618-397-0975
www.callforhelpinc.org

CARBONDALE

Rape Crisis Services of The Women's Center, Inc.
24 hrs. 618-529-2324 or
800-334-2094
www.thewomensctr.org

CENTRALIA*

Sexual Assault and Family Emergencies
24 hrs. 800-625-1414

EAST ST. LOUIS*

Call For Help, Inc. Sexual Assault Victims Care Unit
24 hrs. 618-397-0975

EFFINGHAM*

Sexual Assault and Family Emergencies
24 hrs. 800-625-1414

GRANITE CITY*

Call For Help, Inc., Sexual Assault Victims Care Unit
24 hrs. 618-397-0975

MARION*

Rape Crisis Services of The Women's Center, Inc.
24 hrs. 800-334-2094

VANDALIA

Sexual Assault and Family Emergencies
24 hrs. 800-625-1414
www.safecrisiscenter.org

** Shows satellite and outreach offices of main centers.*

FOR SERVICES AND INFORMATION IN YOUR
COMMUNITY CONCERNING
SEXUAL ASSAULT OR SEXUAL ABUSE, CONTACT:



100 N. 16th Street
Springfield, IL., 62703
217-753-4117 www.icasa.org