



Community Partners in Action Transitional Housing - TH

PREA Standard: 115.221 Evidence Protocol and Forensic Medical Examinations

Policy:

CPA shall contact local authorities to investigate allegations of sexual abuse. CPA shall offer all victims of sexual abuse access to forensic medical examinations without financial cost. CPA shall attempt to make available to the victim a victim advocate.

Definitions:

Rape Crisis Center: an entity that provides intervention and related assistance to victims of sexual assault.

Qualified Agency Staff/Community Based Staff: an individual who has been screened for appropriateness to serve in this role and has received education concerning sexual assault and forensic examination issues in general.

Procedures:

1. Access to Forensic Medical Examinations: CPA shall offer victims of sexual abuse access to forensic medical examinations via Saint Mary's Hospital or Waterbury Hospital, without financial cost where evidentiary or medically appropriate. Such examinations shall be performed by Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFEs) or Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) where possible. If SAFEs or SANEs cannot be made available, the examination will be performed by other qualified medical practitioners. CPA shall document its efforts to provide SAFEs or SANEs.
2. Victim Advocate: CPA shall attempt to make available to the victim a victim advocate from a rape crisis center. If a rape crisis center is not available to provide victim advocate services, CPA shall attempt to make such services available through a qualified staff member from a qualified community based organization. The program shall document efforts to secure services from rape crisis centers.
3. Staff Support: As requested by the victim, the victim advocate, qualified CPA staff member, or qualified staff from a community based agency shall accompany and support the victim through the forensic medical examination process and



investigatory reviews and shall provide emotional support, crisis intervention, information, and referrals.

4. Qualifications of Investigating Agency: CPA shall request external investigatory agencies (state, local police) follow a uniform evidence protocol and that the investigating agency abide to PREA requirements/standards.

Date of Last Revision: 4-5-22
Positions Responsible: PODs, TH staff
Effective Date: 1-28-16
Cross References: