

SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM PROTOCOL  
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NORTHERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
STATE OF GEORGIA

ORDER

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Georgia enacted O.C.G.A. Section 15-24-2 requiring the establishment of a Sexual Assault Protocol; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned established a Sexual Assault Protocol Committee pursuant to O.C.G.A § 15-24-2; and

WHEREAS, the Committee has met on April 1, 2021 and discussed the Protocol, which was approved by a majority vote and which is attached hereto, as the protocol for cases of sexual assault in the Northern Circuit, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of the State of Georgia.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, this document is accepted by the Court as the protocol to be used in responding to, investigating and prosecuting cases arising from an alleged sexual assault and shall be spread upon the minutes and filed with the Clerk of the Superior Court of the Northern Judicial Circuit.

SO ORDERED, this 22 day of December, 2021



Jeff Malcolm, Chief Superior Court Judge

## NORTHERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM PROTOCOL

This Northern Judicial Circuit Sexual Assault Response Team Protocol ("Protocol") is adopted pursuant to O.C.G.A § 15-24-2 for the purpose of outlining the procedures to be used in responding to, investigating, and prosecuting cases of sexual assault. The purpose of this Protocol shall be to ensure coordination and cooperation between all agencies involved in sexual assault cases so as to increase the efficiency of all agencies handling such cases and to minimize the stress created for the alleged sexual assault victim by the legal and investigatory process<sup>1</sup> and to ensure the most effective treatment is provided.

*The mission of the Northern Judicial Circuit Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) is to respond to sexual assault victims in the most competent, compassionate, and understanding manner possible.*

For purposes of this Protocol, the term *victim* shall refer to victims age 18 and older. Every sexual assault case involving victims under 18 shall refer to the Northern Judicial Circuit Child Abuse Protocol in identifying appropriate services and resources. In providing services to anyone under the age of 18, DFACS and/or law enforcement shall be notified pursuant to O.C.G. A § 19-7-5.

### SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIM ADVOCATE

The role of the sexual assault victim advocate<sup>2</sup> is to provide services to the victims of sexual assault regardless of whether or not the victim chooses to participate in the criminal justice process. They play a very important role in providing a response that keeps the victim central in the process, allowing the investigation and prosecution to be offender focused. Advocacy also has a critical role in promoting the healing process for the victim. Sexual assault victim advocates provide crisis intervention, support, family advocacy, information and referral, and other ancillary services to assist the victim through the criminal justice process. The support provided by the community-based advocate also benefits the criminal justice process, because supported, well-informed victims are more likely to continue through the process. Advocates will operate under the guidelines established by *The Georgia Crime Victim's Bill of Rights* (O.C.G.A. § 17-17-1) and will adhere to best practices as outlined in the *Georgia Sexual Assault Response Team Guide* (2018) and *Georgia Sexual Assault Center Certification Standards*.

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<sup>1</sup> O.C.G.A. § 15-24-2; provided, however that a failure by an agency to follow the protocol shall not constitute an affirmative or other defense to prosecution of a sexual assault, preclude the admissibility of evidence, nor shall a failure by an agency to follow the protocol give rise to a civil cause of action.

<sup>2</sup> Defined as a trained sexual assault victim advocate working with a Georgia certified sexual assault center

Responsibilities of the sexual assault victim advocate include:

- Being available to victims and families 24 hours a day, 7 days a week via a 24-hour crisis line staffed by trained community advocates
- Providing services to victims and families that are sensitive to the unique barriers and special considerations that diverse victims encounter in reporting sexual assault crimes
- Providing options to victims so that they may make informed decisions
- Supporting victims who choose to report to law enforcement by providing a link to eliminate barriers affecting the victim's participation in the criminal justice process
- Maintaining victim confidentiality
- Offering services to non-reporting victims and assisting if and when the victim decides to report

Victims may also work with systems-based victim advocates if the case progresses through the criminal justice system to the point of prosecution.

Best practices for the advocate include:

- Assessment for immediate needs for safety and security
- Trauma informed response for advocacy
- Provide information on status of cases and provide referrals as needed for beneficial resources
- Maintenance of victim's confidentiality and privilege
- Mandatory Reporting of child abuse suspicions
- Accompany with medical forensic exam

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

The role of the investigating officer is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the victim and the community and to ascertain if the report of sexual assault meets the elements of a crime under Georgia law. Within their jurisdictions, law enforcement will investigate sexual assault crimes.

Investigative responsibilities include:

- Identification, apprehension and interrogation of suspect(s)
- Interview of victim with an offender-focused and trauma-informed approach, which includes allowing an advocate to be present
- Interview of witnesses
- Collection and preservation of evidence
- Maintenance of chain of custody

- Timely submission of sexual assault evidence collection kits to GBI crime laboratory regardless of whether a suspect has been identified; per GBI recommendations
- Review of GBI Crime lab reports as soon as possible after they are released to investigating agency; per GBI recommendations
- Determination of probable cause and arrest
- Preparation of case reports with investigative summaries
- Assistance to District Attorney's office in prosecution of case
- Testimony and presentation of evidence in court

Investigating officers will work with victim advocates to ensure a victim centered response to the investigation and proper notification of case updates to victims. Additionally, law enforcement officers will operate under the guidelines established by *The Georgia Crime Victim's Bill of Rights* (O.C.G.A. § 17-17-1) and adhere to best practices as outlined in the *Georgia Sexual Assault Team Guide (2018)*.

Best practices for law enforcement include protection by providing for the immediate safety and well-being of the victim and the community and investigation by determining if the report meets the elements of crime under Georgia law.

## **MEDICAL FORENSIC EXAMINATION PROCEDURES**

The role of the medical forensic personnel is to provide a timely, high-quality medical forensic examination that can potentially validate and address sexual assault patients' concerns, minimize the trauma they may experience, and promote their healing. At the same time, it can increase the likelihood that evidence collected will aid in criminal case investigation, resulting in perpetrators being held accountable and further sexual violence prevented.

The location of the patient's medical forensic examination is based on the county where the incident occurred, not where the patient resides. If the incident occurred in Franklin, Hart, or Elbert Counties, then the examination shall be performed at Harmony House. If the incident occurred in Oglethorpe or Madison County, then the medical forensic examination shall be performed by ACC-Sane and The Cottage. Should emergent medical treatment be required for physical injury deemed necessary by a hospital physician, the medical forensic examination can be performed by the certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner. Medical forensic exams should be made available if patient chooses to report, chooses not to report, or chooses to report anonymously.

Medical forensic examinations shall be performed by a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner ("SANE"), physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant ("PA") trained in performing such

exams and in meeting the specific healthcare needs of the patient that has experienced sexual assault and has the ability to provide expert testimony in court.

Medical forensic responsibilities include:

- Obtaining informed consent from the patient for the medical forensic examination, documentation and evidence collection
- Providing the patient with a medical screening to determine the absence or presence of emergency medical conditions
- Gathering the medical forensic history of the patient
- Conducting a physical examination for the patient
- Coordinating treatment of injuries for the patient
- Documenting of biologic and physical findings of examination
- Collection of evidence from the patient
- Providing patient with information, treatment, and referrals for STIs, pregnancy, etc.
- Following-up as needed for additional treatment and/or collection of evidence
- Providing testimony at trial

## **BIOLOGIC EVIDENCE COLLECTION**

The SANE, physician, nurse practitioner, or PA will collect biologic samples at the request of a patient, in accordance with currently accepted protocol (defined as the *National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations Adults/Adolescents*), to obtain timely biologic reference samples for possible analysis at the Georgia Bureau of Investigations Division of Forensic Services. At the conclusion of the sexual assault medical forensic examination, any evidence collected will be packaged and protected in a manner to ensure the integrity of specimens and the appropriate chain of custody of the evidence.

All biologic evidence will be collected up to a minimum of 120 hours after assault. In addition, cases should be evaluated on an individual basis as the medical forensic examination may be completed beyond 120 hours.

All biologic samples, fluids, hairs, and other evidence requiring GBI analysis will be given directly to the case investigator for processing using a proper chain of evidence.

Pursuant to SB 304/O.C.G.A. § 35-1-2, it shall be the duty of every law enforcement officer who takes possession of the evidence collected during a sexual assault forensic medical examination to ensure that such evidence is submitted to the division within 30 days of it being collected.

Urine collected for analysis can be collected up to 120 hours and may be submitted to the Georgia Bureau of Investigations Division of Forensic Services, the Federal Bureau of Investigations Crime Lab, or other private lab for toxicology drug screen.

All biologic evidence collected at the request of a patient who chooses not to initiate and participate in and/or cooperate with a law enforcement investigation shall be handled by local law enforcement and the procedure that they are required to follow.

## **REQUESTS FOR MEDICAL FORENSIC EXAMINATION**

With the consent of the patient, medical forensic examinations can be performed at the request of (1) a law enforcement agency, (2) the District Attorney's Office, (3) the medical examiner or coroner's office, (4) a hospital, (5) pursuant to a court order, or at the patient's request pursuant to O.C.G.A. 17-5-72.

Medical forensic examinations may be requested 24 hours a day by using the following procedure:

- For incidents with clients 18 years old or over that live in/and or were assaulted in Madison or Oglethorpe County, The Cottage should be contacted Monday-Friday between 8am-5pm on their 24/7 hotline at 706-353-1912. For incidents that occur Monday-Friday from 5pm-8am, weekends on Friday at 5pm-Monday at 8am, and on holidays, please call The Cottage 24/7 hotline at 706-353-1912 and/or our Accompaniment Request Line at 706-546-1133 ext. 6 (let the line ring to voicemail, press 1 and leave message with name, number, and agency information). The system will then call The Cottage Accompaniment Advocate who will receive your message and call you back directly to coordinate meeting with survivor and ACC-SANE. If you do not receive a call back within 10-15 minutes, please call The Cottage hotline again at 706-353-1912 and they will assist further.
- For incidents with victim/survivors over 18 years of age that occurred in Elbert, Franklin, or Hart Counties, Harmony House should be contacted Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00AM and 5:00PM at 706-245-8700 or the Hotline phone at 706-680-4273 24-hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Upon contact The Cottage or Harmony House will coordinate with the SANE Nurse to provide a timely medical forensic examination.

## **COSTS OF THE MEDICAL FORENSIC EXAMINATIONS**

The cost of examinations shall be paid pursuant to O.C.G.A § 16-6-1(c), O.C.G.A § 17-5-72. Patients shall not be responsible for the payment of medical forensic examination costs.

## CONDUCT OF THE MEDICAL FORENSIC EXAMINATION

A SANE, physician, nurse practitioner, or PA will perform the examination and assessment.

Medical forensic examinations and biologic evidence collection should be completed as quickly as possible after a report is received.

Medical forensic examinations and biologic evidence collection shall be conducted in accordance with Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) procedures using a GBI Sexual Assault Evidence Kit. It is also recommended that medical forensic exams be conducted in accordance with the *National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations*.

A trained victim advocate will accompany the patient and offer emotional support during the examination. The advocate will at no time ask the patient questions related to the details of the assault.

Harmony House will accommodate adult patients' requests to have a relative, friend, or other personal support person present during the exam, unless considered harmful. Patient requests to not have certain individuals present in the room should also be respected. Examiners should get explicit consent from patients to go forward with the exam with another person present, excluding the advocate.

Adults will not be questioned during the exam process beyond what is essential for providing the medical forensic care.

The SANE, physician, nurse practitioner, or PA will complete appropriate authorizations relating to the examination.

The SANE, physician, nurse practitioner, or PA will photograph and document injuries and prepare a report.

The SANE, physician, nurse practitioner, or PA will maintain and document the chain of custody of any evidence collected during the examination and assessment.

The SANE, physician, nurse practitioner, or PA will adhere to best practices as outlined in the *Georgia Sexual Assault Response Team Guide (2018)*.

## PROCEDURES for HOSPITALS RECEIVING WALK-IN REPORTS OF SEXUAL ASSAULTS

Hospitals receiving patients reporting incidents of sexual assault shall immediately contact law enforcement in accordance with O.C.G.A § 31-7-9 mandating all non-accidental injuries be reported. Patients will retain the right not to initiate, participate in, and/or cooperate with any law enforcement investigation of such assault.

Hospital emergency department personnel shall timely notify the Sexual Assault Advocacy Center where the incident occurred and which law enforcement agency is responding. Incidents occurring in Madison and Oglethorpe County should be reported to The Cottage and incidents occurring in Franklin, Elbert and Hart counties should be reported to Harmony House.

## PROSECUTION

The role of the District Attorney's office is to protect the rights of the victim while holding the offender accountable. Prosecutors should work in a collaborative fashion with law enforcement, medical forensic and victim advocates.

Prosecutors will operate under the guidelines established by *The Georgia Crime Victim's Bill of Rights* (O.C.G.A. § 15-17-1) that state, for example, that victims have the right

- To be treated fairly and with dignity by all criminal justice agencies involved in the case
- To proceedings free from unreasonable delay
- To reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of a court proceeding where the release of the accused will be considered
- To reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of a court proceedings or any changes to such proceedings, including restitution hearings
- To reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of the accused release and/or monitoring program
- To be present at all criminal proceedings in which the accused has a right to be present
- To NOT be excluded from any scheduled court proceedings, except as provided in O.C.G.A. § 17-17-1 or otherwise provided by law
- To a waiting area, during judicial proceedings, that is separate from the accused and his or her relatives, friends, and witnesses
- To be reasonably heard at any scheduled court proceedings involving the release, plea, or sentencing of the accused
- To complete a Victim Impact Statement and have it presented to the court prior to the trial or plea of the accused (O.C.G.A. § 17-17-11)
- To refuse to submit to an interview by the accused, accused's attorney, or agent of the accused.
- To a requirement by the court that defense counsel not disclose victim information to the accused (O.C.G.A. § 17-17-10)

A victim attending any court proceeding and/or prosecutorial meeting has a right to be accompanied by a Sexual Assault Victim Advocate.



Best practices include court trial preparation, avoiding and prevention of false reports and recantation, jury selection, settlements, sentencing, and public statements.

Prosecutors and prosecution-based advocates will adhere to best practices as outlined in the *Georgia Sexual Assault Response Team Guide (2018)*.

## **SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS**

### **COLLEGIATE RESPONSE**

The role of the campuses of Athens Technical Institute – Elbert campus and Emmanuel College in collaboration with the Northern Judicial Circuit SART and community partners, is to provide campus services, support, and connect victim/survivors with local resources.

The campuses will adhere to best practices as outlined in the *Georgia Sexual Assault Response Team Guide (2018)*.

Emmanuel College  
[www.ec.edu/title-ix](http://www.ec.edu/title-ix)

Athens Technical Institute – Elbert County campus  
[athenstech.smartcatalogiq.com/2017-2018/catalog/student-code-of-conduct](http://athenstech.smartcatalogiq.com/2017-2018/catalog/student-code-of-conduct)

### **INCARCERATED VICTIMS**

The role of Whitworth Detention Center mirrors that of the outside community. Sexual assault in detention needs to be addressed not just by the corrections community, but by the community as a whole to ensure the safety and well-being of all inmates.

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was signed into law in September of 2003 to address the problem of sexual assault of people in the custody of detention agencies. PREA applies to all correctional and detention facilities, including prisons and jails. Major provisions of the act include development of standards for detection, prevention, reduction, and punishment of prison rape; collection and dissemination of information on the incidence of prison rape; award grant funds to help state and local governments implement the purposes of the Act.

The detention center will adhere to best practices as outlined in the *Georgia Sexual Assault Team Guide (2018)*.

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

All agencies are mandated by law to report suspicion of human trafficking.

Protocols for each discipline should be followed if human trafficking is suspected or discovered in the investigation of a sexual assault.

More information on human trafficking is available through The Georgia Coalition to Combat Human Trafficking at <https://endhtga.org/> and/or 1-800-ENDHTGA, where statewide resources may be accessed. The local sexual assault center has access and can evaluate and link to resources as needed. Best practices and resources are outlined in the *Georgia Sexual Assault Team Guide (2018)*.

## GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

The victim-centered consideration is designed to help SART members understand victims from diverse cultures to ensure all victims are served with respect regardless of their cultural background. This section is intended to be a tool to help professionals; however, it is the responsibility of each SART member to integrate cultural sensitivity into their services to victims. It is hoped that SARTs will utilize these considerations to increase their understanding of diversity and learn ways to serve victims with respect to their cultural background and identities.

Included in these considerations are the following:

- Working with Interpreters
- Cognitive/Developmentally and Physical Disability
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- Elderly
- Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Queer/Questioning (LGBTQQ)
- Male Victims
- African American
- Immigrant and Refugee
- Latino/Hispanic

Best practices and resources are outlined in the *Georgia Sexual Assault Response Team Guide (2018)*.

## LOCAL SART COORDINATED RESPONSE

All members of the Northern Judicial Circuit Sexual Assault Response Team will adhere to best practices as outlined in the *Georgia Sexual Assault Response Team Guide (2018)*.

Members of the Northern Judicial Circuit SART agree to meet every three months for case review, discussion, and evaluation to assure the coordination and cooperation between all agencies responding to sexual assault cases in the circuit.

The Northern Judicial Circuit SART will make sure local resources have been identified and made known to each member of the team.

- SART will verify that 911 is aware of their response and procedure for a sexual assault case.
- Harmony House will serve as the coordinating entity for the Northern Judicial Circuit SART and ensure appropriate members notification. Harmony House can be reached at (706) 245-8700.
- Local investigators are to know the response and procedure in the event of a sexual assault case.
  - The responding officer, law enforcement involved with the crime scene, and the creator of the incident report are to know the response and procedure.
- EMS transport is to be made available to the victim, if needed.
- Advocates should respond in a timely manner upon receiving a call.
- Drug facilitated sexual assaults should be handled accordingly by law enforcement protocol.
- If a victim interview is needed, it should be conducted prior to a medical forensic exam, if possible, or within a timely manner of the incident being brought to knowledge of the SART.
- Upon a false report or recantation, it will be handled by the investigator assigned to the case.
- The medical forensic response should be in a timely manner.
- If Adult Protective Services are involved, they are to be made known of any pertinent information that include, but not limited to, the safety of the client. Referrals will be made to Adult Protective Services if abuse is suspected.
- The SART team will be able to put aside personal biases to ensure that all victims are treated with respect and dignity.

- Harmony House Child Advocacy Sexual Assault Center and The Cottage Sexual Assault & Children's Advocacy Center can evaluate and access services and needs of Human Trafficking victim/survivors through The Georgia Coalition To End Human Trafficking.
- If a language interpreter is needed, the responding sexual assault center will provide the interpreter service.
- Victims with disabilities will receive the necessary accommodations that are deemed appropriate.
- SART will work with Emmanuel College and Athens Technical College – Elberton Campus for any sexual assault that occurs on their campus.
- SART will also work with Whitworth Correctional Facility and any other correctional facilities in the area that may be in need of services from the SART.
- If a Domestic Violence Resource Agency is involved with a victim/survivor they are to be included with pertinent information at victim/survivor request.

# **Addendum to Sexual Assault Response Team Protocol 2021**

**For: Elbert County Sheriff's Office**

**Addendum date: June 29, 2021**

**Referenced Georgia Codes**

## **O.C.G.A § 15-24-2. Establishment of sexual assault protocol and committee; representatives to committee; annual meeting, review, and reporting**

- (a) Each judicial circuit shall be required to establish a sexual assault protocol as provided in this Code section.
- (b) The chief superior court judge of each judicial circuit shall establish a sexual assault protocol committee as provided in subsection (c) of this Code section and shall appoint an interim chairperson who shall preside over the first meeting. The chief superior court judge shall appoint persons to fill any vacancies on the committee. Thus established, the committee shall thereafter elect a chairperson from its membership.
- (c) (1) Each of the following agencies of the judicial circuit shall designate a representative to serve on the committee:
  - (A) The office of the sheriff of each sheriff's office in the judicial circuit;
  - (B) The office of the district attorney;
  - (C) The magistrate court;
  - (D) The office of the chief of police of a county of each county within the judicial circuit in counties which have a county police department;
  - (E) The office of the chief of police of the largest municipality in the county of each county within the judicial circuit; and
  - (F) The county board of health of each county within the judicial circuit.
- (2) In addition to the representatives serving on the committee as provided for in paragraph (1) of this subsection, the chief superior court judge shall designate:
  - (A) A local citizen of the judicial circuit;
  - (B) A representative of a sexual assault or rape crisis center serving the judicial circuit or, if no such center exists, then a local citizen; and
  - (C) A health care professional who performs sexual assault examinations within the judicial circuit or, if no such person exists, then a local citizen.
- (3) If any designated agency fails to carry out its duties relating to participation on the committee, the chief superior court judge of the circuit may issue an order requiring the participation of such agency. Failure to comply with such order shall be cause for punishment as for contempt of court.
- (d) The protocol committee shall adopt a written sexual assault protocol, a copy of which shall be furnished to each agency in the judicial circuit that handles cases of sexual assault. The protocol shall be a written document outlining in detail the procedures to be used in

investigating, collecting evidence, paying for expenses related to evidence collection, and prosecuting cases arising from alleged sexual assault and shall take into consideration the provisions of Article 4 of Chapter 5 of Title 17. The protocol may provide for different procedures to be used within particular municipalities or counties within the judicial circuit. The protocol committee shall adopt a written sexual assault protocol no later than December 31, 2004. The protocol committee may incorporate sexual assault protocols used in the judicial circuit as they existed on or before July 1, 2004.

(e) The purpose of the protocol shall be to ensure coordination and cooperation between all agencies involved in sexual assault cases so as to increase the efficiency of all agencies handling such cases and to minimize the stress created for the alleged sexual assault victim by the legal and investigatory process; provided, however, that a failure by an agency to follow the protocol shall not constitute an affirmative or other defense to prosecution of a sexual assault, preclude the admissibility of evidence, nor shall a failure by an agency to follow the protocol give rise to a civil cause of action.

(f) Upon completion of the writing of the sexual assault protocol, the protocol committee shall continue in existence and shall meet at least annually for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of the protocol and appropriately modifying and updating same.

(g) The protocol committee shall submit a certification of annual compliance to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council by December 31 of each year. The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council shall notify the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court of any noncompliant judicial circuits.

### **O.C.G.A. § 16-6-1. Rape**

(a) A person commits the offense of rape when he has carnal knowledge of:

- (1) A female forcibly and against her will; or
- (2) A female who is less than ten years of age.

Carnal knowledge in rape occurs when there is any penetration of the female sex organ by the male sex organ. The fact that the person allegedly raped is the wife of the defendant shall not be a defense to a charge of rape.

(b) A person convicted of the offense of rape shall be punished by death, by imprisonment for life without parole, by imprisonment for life, or by a split sentence that is a term of imprisonment for not less than 25 years and not exceeding life imprisonment, followed by probation for life. Any person convicted under this Code section shall, in addition, be subject to the sentencing and punishment provisions of Code Sections 17-10-6.1 and 17-10-7.

(c) When evidence relating to an allegation of rape is collected in the course of a medical examination of the person who is the victim of the alleged crime, the Georgia Crime Victims Emergency Fund, as provided for in Chapter 15 of Title 17, shall be responsible for the cost of

the medical examination to the extent that expense is incurred for the limited purpose of collecting evidence.

**O.C.G.A. § 19-7-5. (Effective until January 1, 2022.) Reporting of child abuse; when mandated or authorized; content of report; to whom made; immunity from liability; report based upon privileged communication; penalty for failure to report**

(a) The purpose of this Code section is to provide for the protection of children. It is intended that mandatory reporting will cause the protective services of the state to be brought to bear on the situation in an effort to prevent abuses, to protect and enhance the welfare of children, and to preserve family life wherever possible. This Code section shall be liberally construed so as to carry out the purposes thereof.

(b) As used in this Code section, the term:

(1) "Abortion" shall have the same meaning as set forth in Code Section 15-11-681.

(2) "Abused" means subjected to child abuse.

(3) "Child" means any person under 18 years of age.

(4) "Child abuse" means:

(A) Physical injury or death inflicted upon a child by a parent or caretaker thereof by other than accidental means; provided, however, that physical forms of discipline may be used as long as there is no physical injury to the child;

(B) Neglect or exploitation of a child by a parent or caretaker thereof;

(C) Endangering a child;

(D) Sexual abuse of a child; or

(E) Sexual exploitation of a child.

However, no child who in good faith is being treated solely by spiritual means through prayer in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination by a duly accredited practitioner thereof shall, for that reason alone, be considered to be an abused child.

(5) "Child service organization personnel" means persons employed by or volunteering at a business or an organization, whether public, private, for profit, not for profit, or voluntary, that provides care, treatment, education, training, supervision, coaching, counseling, recreational programs, or shelter to children.

(6) "Clergy" means ministers, priests, rabbis, imams, or similar functionaries, by whatever name called, of a bona fide religious organization.

(6.1) "Endangering a child" means:

(A) Any act described by subsection (d) of Code Section 16-5-70;

(B) Any act described by Code Section 16-5-73;

(C) Any act described by subsection (l) of Code Section 40-6-391; or

(D) Prenatal abuse, as such term is defined in Code Section 15-11-2.

(7) "Pregnancy resource center" means an organization or facility that:

(A) Provides pregnancy counseling or information as its primary purpose, either for a fee or as a free service;

- (B) Does not provide or refer for abortions;
- (C) Does not provide or refer for FDA approved contraceptive drugs or devices; and
- (D) Is not licensed or certified by the state or federal government to provide medical or health care services and is not otherwise bound to follow the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, P.L. 104-191, or other state or federal laws relating to patient confidentiality.
- (8) "Reproductive health care facility" means any office, clinic, or any other physical location that provides abortions, abortion counseling, abortion referrals, or gynecological care and services.
- (9) "School" means any public or private pre-kindergarten, elementary school, secondary school, technical school, vocational school, college, university, or institution of postsecondary education.
- (10) "Sexual abuse" means a person's employing, using, persuading, inducing, enticing, or coercing any minor who is not such person's spouse to engage in any act which involves:
  - (A) Sexual intercourse, including genital-genital, oral-genital, anal-genital, or oral-anal, whether between persons of the same or opposite sex;
  - (B) Bestiality;
  - (C) Masturbation;
  - (D) Lewd exhibition of the genitals or pubic area of any person;
  - (E) Flagellation or torture by or upon a person who is nude;
  - (F) Condition of being fettered, bound, or otherwise physically restrained on the part of a person who is nude;
  - (G) Physical contact in an act of apparent sexual stimulation or gratification with any person's clothed or unclothed genitals, pubic area, or buttocks or with a female's clothed or unclothed breasts;
  - (H) Defecation or urination for the purpose of sexual stimulation;
  - (I) Penetration of the vagina or rectum by any object except when done as part of a recognized medical procedure; or
  - (J) Any act described by subsection (c) of Code Section 16-5-46.

Sexual abuse shall include consensual sex acts when the sex acts are between minors if any individual is less than 14 years of age; provided, however, that it shall not include consensual sex acts when the sex acts are between a minor and an adult who is not more than four years older than the minor. This provision shall not be deemed or construed to repeal any law concerning the age or capacity to consent.

- (11) "Sexual exploitation" means conduct by any person who allows, permits, encourages, or requires a child to engage in:
  - (A) Prostitution, as defined in Code Section 16-6-9; or
  - (B) Sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing any visual or print medium depicting such conduct, as defined in Code Section 16-12-100.
- (c) (1) The following persons having reasonable cause to believe that suspected child abuse has occurred shall report or cause reports of such abuse to be made as provided in this Code section:
  - (A) Physicians licensed to practice medicine, physician assistants, interns, or residents;
  - (B) Hospital or medical personnel;
  - (C) Dentists;



- (D) Licensed psychologists and persons participating in internships to obtain licensing pursuant to Chapter 39 of Title 43;
  - (E) Podiatrists;
  - (F) Registered professional nurses or licensed practical nurses licensed pursuant to Chapter 26 of Title 43 or nurse's aides;
  - (G) Professional counselors, social workers, or marriage and family therapists licensed pursuant to Chapter 10A of Title 43;
  - (H) School teachers;
  - (I) School administrators;
  - (J) School counselors, visiting teachers, school social workers, or school psychologists certified pursuant to Chapter 2 of Title 20;
  - (K) Child welfare agency personnel, as such agency is defined in Code Section 49-5-12;
  - (L) Child-counseling personnel;
  - (M) Child service organization personnel;
  - (N) Law enforcement personnel; or
  - (O) Reproductive health care facility or pregnancy resource center personnel and volunteers.
- (2) If a person is required to report child abuse pursuant to this subsection because such person attends to a child pursuant to such person's duties as an employee of or volunteer at a hospital, school, social agency, or similar facility, such person shall notify the person in charge of such hospital, school, agency, or facility, or the designated delegate thereof, and the person so notified shall report or cause a report to be made in accordance with this Code section. An employee or volunteer who makes a report to the person designated pursuant to this paragraph shall be deemed to have fully complied with this subsection. Under no circumstances shall any person in charge of such hospital, school, agency, or facility, or the designated delegate thereof, to whom such notification has been made exercise any control, restraint, or modification or make any other change to the information provided by the reporter, although each of the aforementioned persons may be consulted prior to the making of a report and may provide any additional, relevant, and necessary information when making the report.
- (3) When a person identified in paragraph (1) of this subsection has reasonable cause to believe that child abuse has occurred involving a person who attends to a child pursuant to such person's duties as an employee of or volunteer at a hospital, school, social agency, or similar facility, the person who received such information shall notify the person in charge of such hospital, school, agency, or facility, or the designated delegate thereof, and the person so notified shall report or cause a report to be made in accordance with this Code section. An employee or volunteer who makes a report to the person designated pursuant to this paragraph shall be deemed to have fully complied with this subsection. Under no circumstances shall any person in charge of such hospital, school, agency, or facility, or the designated delegate thereof, to whom such notification has been made exercise any control, restraint, or modification or make any other change to the information provided by the reporter, although each of the aforementioned persons may be consulted prior to the making of a report and may provide any additional, relevant, and necessary information when making the report.
- (d) Any other person, other than one specified in subsection (c) of this Code section, who has reasonable cause to believe that suspected child abuse has occurred may report or cause reports to be made as provided in this Code section.
- (e) (1) As used in the subsection, the term:
- (A) "Active duty" means full-time duty status.

(B) "Armed forces of the United States" or "military" means the United States Army, United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard, United States Air Force, United States National Guard, Georgia Army National Guard, or Georgia Air National Guard, or a reserve component thereof.

(C) "Family advocacy program" means, for the particular branch, the program established by the military for the prevention, education, prompt reporting, investigation, intervention, or treatment of spouse or child abuse.

(D) "Military law enforcement" means, for the particular branch, the police corps, division, branch, agency, or authority of the military responsible for law enforcement or force protection.

(2) With respect to reporting required by subsection (c) of this Code section, an oral report by telephone or other oral communication or a written report by electronic submission or facsimile shall be made immediately, but in no case later than 24 hours from the time there is reasonable cause to believe that suspected child abuse has occurred. When a report is being made by electronic submission or facsimile to the Division of Family and Children Services of the Department of Human Services, it shall be done in the manner specified by the division. Oral reports shall be followed by a later report in writing, if requested, to a child welfare agency providing protective services, as designated by the Division of Family and Children Services of the Department of Human Services, or, in the absence of such agency, to an appropriate police authority or district attorney. Such report shall be provided to military law enforcement, if applicable. If a report of child abuse is made to the child welfare agency or independently discovered by the agency, and the agency has reasonable cause to believe such report is true or the report contains any allegation or evidence of child abuse, then the agency shall immediately notify the appropriate police authority or district attorney and notify military law enforcement, if applicable. Such reports shall contain the names and addresses of the child and the child's parents or caretakers, if known, the child's age, the nature and extent of the child's injuries, including any evidence of previous injuries, and any other information that the reporting person believes might be helpful in establishing the cause of the injuries and the identity of the perpetrator. Photographs of the child's injuries to be used as documentation in support of allegations by hospital employees or volunteers, physicians, law enforcement personnel, school officials, or employees or volunteers of legally mandated public or private child protective agencies may be taken without the permission of the child's parent or guardian. Such photographs shall be made available as soon as possible to the chief welfare agency providing protective services, the appropriate police authority, and military law enforcement.

(3) For each child who is the subject of child abuse allegations, the child welfare agency as provided for in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall make efforts as soon as practicable to determine whether a parent or guardian of such child is on active duty in the armed forces of the United States. If such agency determines that a parent or guardian of such child is on active duty in the armed forces of the United States, such agency shall notify the applicable military installation's family advocacy program of the allegation of child abuse that relates to the parent or guardian of such child.

(f) Any person or persons, partnership, firm, corporation, association, hospital, or other entity participating in the making of a report or causing a report to be made, and individuals who otherwise provide information or assistance, including, but not limited to, medical evaluations or consultations, in connection with a report made to a child welfare agency providing protective services, an appropriate police authority, or military law enforcement pursuant to this Code section or any other law or participating in any judicial proceeding or any other proceeding

resulting therefrom shall in so doing be immune from any civil or criminal liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed, provided that such participation pursuant to this Code section or any other law is made in good faith. Any person making a report, whether required by this Code section or not, shall be immune from liability as provided in this subsection.

(g) Suspected child abuse which is required to be reported by any person pursuant to this Code section shall be reported notwithstanding that the reasonable cause to believe such abuse has occurred or is occurring is based in whole or in part upon any communication to that person which is otherwise made privileged or confidential by law; provided, however, that a member of the clergy shall not be required to report child abuse reported solely within the context of confession or other similar communication required to be kept confidential under church doctrine or practice. When a clergy member receives information about child abuse from any other source, the clergy member shall comply with the reporting requirements of this Code section, even though the clergy member may have also received a report of child abuse from the confession of the perpetrator.

(h) Any person or official required by subsection (c) of this Code section to report a suspected case of child abuse who knowingly and willfully fails to do so shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

(i) A report of child abuse or information relating thereto and contained in such report, when provided to a law enforcement agency or district attorney pursuant to subsection (e) of this Code section or pursuant to Code Section 49-5-41, shall not be subject to public inspection under Article 4 of Chapter 18 of Title 50 even though such report or information is contained in or part of closed records compiled for law enforcement or prosecution purposes unless:

(1) There is a criminal or civil court proceeding which has been initiated based in whole or in part upon the facts regarding abuse which are alleged in the child abuse reports and the person or entity seeking to inspect such records provides clear and convincing evidence of such proceeding; or

(2) The superior court in the county in which is located the office of the law enforcement agency or district attorney which compiled the records containing such reports, after application for inspection and a hearing on the issue, shall permit inspection of such records by or release of information from such records to individuals or entities who are engaged in legitimate research for educational, scientific, or public purposes and who comply with the provisions of this paragraph. When those records are located in more than one county, the application may be made to the superior court of any one of such counties. A copy of any application authorized by this paragraph shall be served on the office of the law enforcement agency or district attorney which compiled the records containing such reports. In cases where the location of the records is unknown to the applicant, the application may be made to the Superior Court of Fulton County. The superior court to which an application is made shall not grant the application unless:

(A) The application includes a description of the proposed research project, including a specific statement of the information required, the purpose for which the project requires that information, and a methodology to assure the information is not arbitrarily sought;

(B) The applicant carries the burden of showing the legitimacy of the research project; and

(C) Names and addresses of individuals, other than officials, employees, or agents of agencies receiving or investigating a report of abuse which is the subject of a report, shall be deleted from any information released pursuant to this subsection unless the court determines that having the names and addresses open for review is essential to the research and the child, through his or her representative, gives permission to release the information.

(e) It shall be the duty of every law enforcement agency to create a list of evidence resulting from a forensic medical examination that is in such agency's possession on August 1, 2016, identifying such evidence as needing to be tested and submitting such listing of information to the division by August 15, 2016.

(f) A failure to comply with the provisions of this Code section shall not affect the admissibility of evidence collected from a forensic medical examination.

(g) Beginning December 1, 2016, the division shall issue an annual report detailing the number of cases for which it has tested evidence pursuant to this Code section and the number of cases that are awaiting testing. Such report shall be provided to the executive counsel of the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Lieutenant Governor, the members of the House Committee on Judiciary, Non-civil, the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, the House Committee on Health and Human Services, and the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and posted online at the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's website.

#### **O.C.G.A. § 17-17-11. Right of victim to express opinion on disposition of accused's case**

The prosecuting attorney shall offer the victim the opportunity to express the victim's opinion on the disposition of an accused's case, including the views of the victim regarding:

- (1) Plea or sentence negotiations; and
- (2) Participation in pretrial or post-conviction diversion programs.

This provision shall not limit any other right created pursuant to state law.

#### **O.C.G.A. § 17-17-10. Requirement by court that defense counsel not disclose victim information to accused**

As a condition of permitting a response to an inquiry as to the victim's current address, telephone number, or place of employment, the court may require counsel or any other officer of the court, including but not limited to counsel for the defendant, not to transmit or permit transmission to the defendant of the victim's current address, telephone number, or place of employment by the counsel or officer of the court or any employee, agent, or other representative of the counsel or officer of the court.

#### **O.C.G.A. § 17-5-72. Right to free forensic medical examination**

A victim shall have the right to have a forensic medical examination regardless of whether the victim participates in the criminal justice system or cooperates with law enforcement in pursuing prosecution of the underlying crime. A victim shall not be required to pay, directly or indirectly,

### **O.C.G.A. § 17-17-1. Declaration of policy**

The General Assembly hereby finds and declares it to be the policy of this state that victims of crimes should be accorded certain basic rights just as the accused are accorded certain basic rights. These rights include:

- (1) The right to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of any scheduled court proceedings or any changes to such proceedings;
- (2) The right to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of the arrest, release, or escape of the accused;
- (3) The right not to be excluded from any scheduled court proceedings, except as provided in this chapter or as otherwise required by law;
- (4) The right to be heard at any scheduled court proceedings involving the release, plea, or sentencing of the accused;
- (5) The right to file a written objection in any parole proceedings involving the accused;
- (6) The right to confer with the prosecuting attorney in any criminal prosecution related to the victim;
- (7) The right to restitution as provided by law;
- (8) The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay; and
- (9) The right to be treated fairly and with dignity by all criminal justice agencies involved in the case.

### **O.C.G.A. § 31-7-9. Reports by physicians and other personnel of non-accidental injuries to patients; immunity from liability**

(a) As used in this Code section, the term "medical facility" includes, without being limited to, an ambulatory surgical treatment center defined in subparagraph (C) of paragraph (4) of Code Section 31-7-1 and a freestanding imaging center defined in subparagraph (G) of paragraph (4) of Code Section 31-7-1.

(b) Any:

- (1) Physician, including any doctor of medicine licensed to practice under the laws of this state;
- (2) Licensed registered nurse employed by a medical facility;
- (3) Security personnel employed by a medical facility; or
- (4) Other personnel employed by a medical facility whose employment duties involve the care and treatment of patients therein

having cause to believe that a patient has had physical injury or injuries inflicted upon him other than by accidental means shall report or cause reports to be made in accordance with this Code section.

(c) An oral report shall be made immediately by telephone or otherwise and shall be followed by a report in writing, if requested, to the person in charge of the medical facility or his designated delegate. The person in charge of the medical facility or his designated delegate shall then notify the local law enforcement agency having primary jurisdiction in the area in which the medical facility is located of the contents of the report. The report shall contain the name and address of the patient, the nature and extent of the patient's injuries, and any other information that the reporting person believes might be helpful in establishing the cause of the injuries and the identity of the perpetrator.

(d) Any person or persons participating in the making of a report or causing a report to be made to the appropriate police authority pursuant to this Code section or participating in any judicial proceeding or any other proceeding resulting therefrom shall in so doing be immune from any civil liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed, providing such participation pursuant to this Code section shall be in good faith.

#### **O.C.G.A. § 35-1-2. Examination of sexual assault victims; reports**

(a) As used in this Code section, the term:

(1) "Division" means the Division of Forensic Sciences of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

(2) "Medical examination" means an examination pursuant to subsection (c) of Code Section 16-6-1 or subsection (c) of Code Section 16-6-2.

(b) When a forensic medical examination is performed, evidence is collected, and the alleged victim has requested that law enforcement officials be notified, the individual performing such exam, or his or her designee, shall notify the appropriate law enforcement agency of the collection of such evidence and provide a summary of all rights guaranteed to the alleged victim pursuant to the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights established pursuant to Code Section 17-17-1, et seq., as provided by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. At the time of the examination, no alleged victim shall be required to assign or waive any rights afforded to him or her in the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights or that might prevent the alleged victim from seeking relief from the Crime Victims Compensation Board. Law enforcement officials shall take possession of such evidence no later than 96 hours of being notified.

(c) It shall be the duty of every law enforcement officer who takes possession of the evidence as provided in subsection (b) of this Code section to ensure that such evidence is submitted to the division within 30 days of it being collected, in accordance with the procedures established by the division.

(d) When a forensic medical examination was performed before July 1, 2016, evidence was collected, and the alleged victim requested that law enforcement officials be notified, the individual who performed such exam, or his or her designee, shall notify the appropriate law enforcement agency of the collection of such evidence on or before July 15, 2016, and law enforcement officials shall take possession of such evidence on or before July 31, 2016. It shall be the duty of every law enforcement officer who takes possession of the evidence as provided in this Code section to ensure that such evidence is submitted to the division by August 31, 2016, in accordance with the procedures established by the division.

for the cost of a forensic medical examination. The cost of a forensic medical examination shall be paid for by the Georgia Crime Victims Emergency Fund, as provided for in Chapter 15 of this title.

*Pursuant to O.C.G.A § 15-24-2, members of the Northern Judicial Circuit Sexual Assault Protocol Committee agree to meet annually to review, update and evaluate this Sexual Assault Protocol.*

The foregoing Northern Judicial Circuit Sexual Assault Protocol is hereby adopted and replaces any previously adopted protocol and remains in effect until such time as said protocol is amended and adopted.

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Elbert County Sheriff's Office  
Melvin Andrews, Sheriff

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Date



Harmony House Child Advocacy Center and Sexual Assault Center

P.O. Box 133, Royston, GA. 30662

Royston: 706-245-8700

Elberton: 762-533-0113

**Memorandum of Understanding Between:**

Harmony House Child Advocacy Center and Sexual Assault Center and the Elbert County Sheriff's Office.

**Period of Memorandum of Understanding:**

This Memorandum of Understanding will be in effect from February 1, 2021 through February 1, 2022.

**Purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding:**

This agreement is for the purpose of establishing a cooperative agreement between Harmony House Child Advocacy Center and Sexual Assault Center and the Elbert County Sheriff's Office.

**Harmony House Child Advocacy Center (CAC) and Sexual Assault Center (SAC) Mission**

Harmony House CAC and SAC serves children and their non-offending caregivers in Elbert, Franklin, Hart, Madison, and Oglethorpe Counties. The agency provides a child friendly central location using a multidisciplinary team approach to the evaluation, intervention, prosecution, and treatment for children (and their non-offending caregivers) that have been alleged victims of child abuse. Harmony House provides services to adult victims of sexual assault.

Harmony House CAC and SAC/Northern Judicial Circuit covers Elbert, Franklin, Hart, Madison, and Oglethorpe counties. **I have reviewed and understand the MDT response document provided to me by Harmony House CAC and SAC.** As a Member of the Northern Judicial Circuit Multidisciplinary Team, I realize that all information to which I am privy must remain confidential. I agree not to discuss any matters or share with anyone who is not a member of the MDT any written information concerning any cases reviewed on the MDT agenda, unless required by law. Information sharing among partner agencies is for the purpose of investigation, prosecution and/or family support.

Harmony House and the Elbert County Sheriff's Office agree to establish a cooperative agreement between our agencies for the utilization of referrals and services for alleged victims of child sexual abuse, severe child abuse, adult victims of sexual assault and non-offending caregivers in the Northern Judicial Circuit. Elbert County Sheriff's Office supports Harmony House Child Advocacy Center and Sexual Assault Center. Elbert County Sheriff's Office agrees to work with Harmony House as has been done in the past. Elbert County Sheriff's Office does not relinquish the duties of Elbert County Sheriff's Office nor Oath of Office.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Laurie Whitworth, Executive Director  
Harmony House Child Advocacy Center, Inc.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melvin Andrews, Sheriff  
Elbert County Sheriff's Office

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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*Steve D. Thomas*

Steve D. Thomas (May 19, 2021 16:30 EDT)

May 19, 2021

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Franklin County Sheriff's Office  
Steve Thomas, Sheriff

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Date

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*Mike Cleveland*

May 20, 2021

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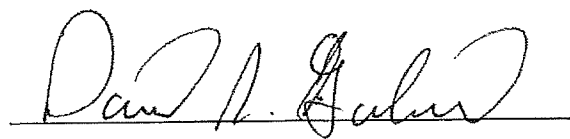
Hart County Sheriff's Office  
Mike Cleveland, Sheriff

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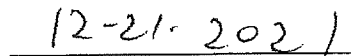
Date

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Gabriel", written over a horizontal line.

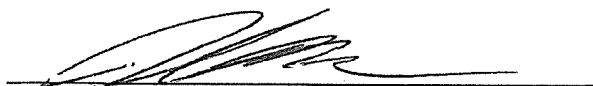
Oglethorpe County Sheriff's Office  
David Gabriel, Sheriff

A handwritten date "12-21-2021" written in black ink over a horizontal line.

Date

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Madison County Sheriff's Office  
J. Michael Moore, Sheriff

12-22-2021

Date

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*Scott M. Marunich*  
Scott M. Marunich (May 24, 2021 08:49 EDT)

May 24, 2021

Elberton Police Department  
Scott Marunich, Chief of Police

Date

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*Anthony C. Davis*

Anthony C. Davis (May 20, 2021 11:39 EDT)

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May 20, 2021

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Hartwell Police Department  
Anthony Davis, Chief of Police

Date

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*Bruce Carlisle*

Bruce Carlisle (May 19, 2021 12:37 EDT)

May 19, 2021

Lavonia Police Department  
Bruce Carlisle, Chief of Police

Date



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*Donnie Bolemon*

Donnie Bolemon (May 13, 2021 08:32 EDT)

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May 13, 2021

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Royston Police Department  
Donnie Bolemon, Chief of Police

Date

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James G. Davis  
James G. Davis (May 21, 2021 16:59 EDT)

May 21, 2021

Franklin Springs Police Department  
James Davis, Chief of Police

Date

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Northern Judicial Circuit District Attorney  
D. Parks White, District Attorney

Jun 9, 2021

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Date

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Angy Fowler, RN  
Angy Fowler, RN (May 12, 2021 16:51 EDT)

Angy Fowler, RN  
Franklin County Health Department

May 12, 2021

Date

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**David Donalson, BSN, RN**

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David Donalson, RN  
Hart County Health Department

May 11, 2021

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Date

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Elizabeth S. Allen, RN

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Elizabeth Allen, RN  
Madison County Health Department

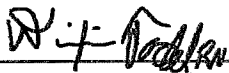
May 11, 2021

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Date

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Dixie Todd, RN (May 17, 2021 12:06 EDT)

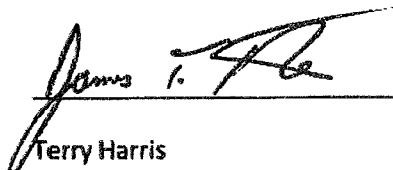
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dixie Todd  
Oglethorpe County Health Department

\_\_\_\_\_  
May 17, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Terry Harris  
Franklin County EMS

8-11-2021  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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\_\_\_\_\_  
Bobby  
Brandon Smith  
Madison County EMS

\_\_\_\_\_  
07/29/21  
Date

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*Courtney Hamil*

May 18, 2021

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Emmanuel College  
Courtney Hamil, Director of Equity and Compliance

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Date

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*Cynthia Gray, RN*  
Cynthia Gray, RN (May 11, 2021 12:05 EDT)

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Cynthia Gray, Chief Nursing Officer  
Elbert Memorial Hospital

May 11, 2021

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Date

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*Regina Hooper*

Regina Hooper (May 11, 2021 11:39 EDT)

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May 11, 2021

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Regina Hooper, Director of Nursing  
St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital

Date

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*Sheila H. Bracewell*

Sheila H. Bracewell (May 24, 2021 08:07 EDT)

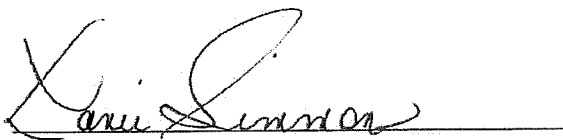
May 24, 2021

Sheila Bracewell, Deputy Warden Care and Treatment  
Whitworth Women's Facility

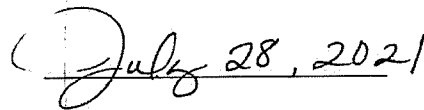
Date

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lanie J. Simmons", is written over a horizontal line.

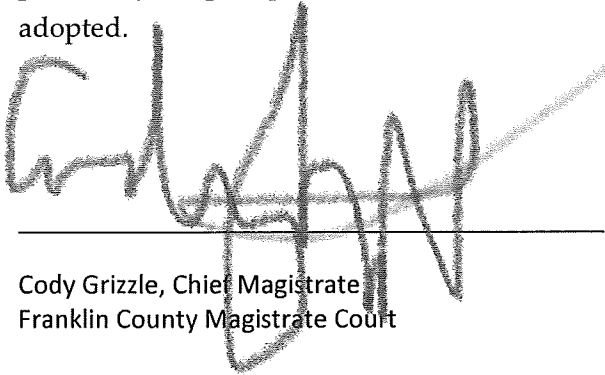
Lanie J. Simmons, Chief Magistrate  
Elbert County Magistrate Court

A handwritten date "July 28, 2021" is written in cursive script over a horizontal line.

Date

*Pursuant to O.C.G.A § 15-24-2, members of the Northern Judicial Circuit Sexual Assault Protocol Committee agree to meet annually to review, update and evaluate this Sexual Assault Protocol.*

The foregoing Northern Judicial Circuit Sexual Assault Protocol is hereby adopted and replaces any previously adopted protocol and remains in effect until such time as said protocol is amended and adopted.



\_\_\_\_\_

Cody Grizzle, Chief Magistrate  
Franklin County Magistrate Court

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Thomas Jordan, Chief Magistrate  
Hart County Magistrate Court

12-8-21

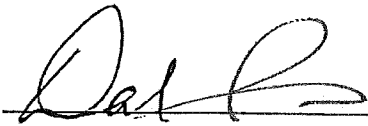
Date





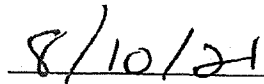
*Pursuant to O.C.G.A § 15-24-2, members of the Northern Judicial Circuit Sexual Assault Protocol Committee agree to meet annually to review, update and evaluate this Sexual Assault Protocol.*

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David Patton, Chief Magistrate  
Madison County Magistrate Court

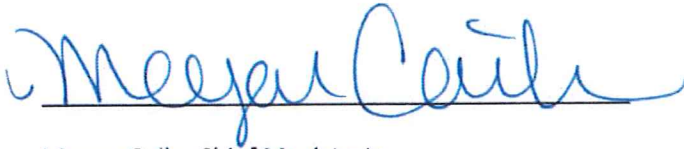


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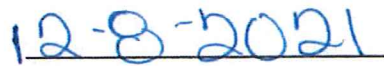
Date

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Megan Coile", written over a horizontal line.

Megan Coile, Chief Magistrate  
Oglethorpe County Magistrate Court

A handwritten date in blue ink, "12-8-2021", written over a horizontal line.

Date

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Sydney Jordan, RN  
Sydney Jordan, RN (May 11, 2021 16:10 EDT)

May 11, 2021

Sydney Jordan, RN  
Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner  
Harmony House Child Advocacy Sexual Assault Center

Date

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*Sally Kimel-Sheppard*

Sally Kimel-Sheppard (May 23, 2021 18:10 EDT)


May 23, 2021

Sally Kimel-Sheppard, Executive Director  
The Cottage, Sexual Assault Center & Children's Advocacy Center

Date

*Pursuant to O.C.G.A § 15-24-2, members of the Northern Judicial Circuit Sexual Assault Protocol Committee agree to meet annually to review, update and evaluate this Sexual Assault Protocol.*

The foregoing Northern Judicial Circuit Sexual Assault Protocol is hereby adopted and replaces any previously adopted protocol and remains in effect until such time as said protocol is amended and adopted.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Dickens (May 26, 2021 07:26 EDT)

Michelle Dickens, Executive Director  
ACC-SANE, Inc.

\_\_\_\_\_  
May 26, 2021

Date