

SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE PROTOCOL  
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CARROLL  
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 November 17, 2023 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 Coweta Judicial Circuit, Sixth 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 Carroll County.

SO ORDERED, this 30 day of November, 2023.

  
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John Simpson  
Chief Judge, Superior Court

## CARROLL COUNTY, GEORGIA SEXUAL ASSAULT PROTOCOL

The undersigned agencies do hereby enter into the Memorandum of Understanding for the purpose of providing collaborative services in Carroll County, Georgia and surrounding areas for victims of sexual assault.

It is agreed that the following areas are basic services that should be provided to every victim of sexual violence:

1. Referral to the appropriate law enforcement agency for reporting purposes;
2. Referral to the appropriate medical agency for the purpose of a forensic medical exam (FME), or other medical care as deemed necessary; and
3. Information regarding advocacy services, crisis intervention, victims' rights, criminal justice procedure, and medical care.

As such, the undersigned agencies agree to the following:

### Law Enforcement

The undersigned law enforcement agencies agree to provide the following services in the course of investigation of sexual assault reports:

- To make victims of sexual violence aware that an advocate is available through the West Georgia Prevention & Advocacy Resource Center, Inc. (PARC) to provide crisis intervention, information, counseling, and emotional and other support;
- To contact PARC's hotline (770-834-7273) in the event a victim or their family, or friend request advocacy services;
- To make victimized students at the University of West Georgia (UWG) aware that 24 hour confidential forensic medical services conducted by SANES and advocacy services are available at Health Services (470-215-9946)
- To contact UWG's Victim Services Crisis Line (470-215-9946) when a victimized student or their family or friends request medical or advocacy services;
- Refer victims of sexual violence to local healthcare facilities for a Forensic Medical Examination (FME) in accordance with O.C.G.A § 17-5-72, and/or

- evaluation as deemed appropriate by law enforcement personnel;
- Advise victims of sexual violence who do not receive an FME of the importance of follow-up medical care and information through other agencies such as the local health department, UWG Health Services (students only), personal physician, or PARC;
- To provide case status information to PARC Client Advocates, or UWG Patient Advocates calling on the behalf of sexual assault victims;
- To contact other agencies (such as the Office of the District Attorney's Victim Advocate, Tanner Behavioral Health, University of West Georgia's Health Services, or PARC) as needed; and
- To call upon fellow stakeholders for collaboration on projects related to sexual violence.
- Pursuant to OCGA § 17-5-74, all law enforcement agencies, collection sites and other entities having custody of sexual assault kits shall register for and utilize the statewide Sexual Assault Kit Tracking System (SAKTS) no later than July 1, 2022.
- Law enforcement shall access SAKTS to acknowledge receipt of all sexual assault kits and to provide notification to the GBI crime lab in the tracking system of any reported case when their agency submits the physical kit for forensic analysis. Law enforcement shall also utilize SAKTS to indicate the receipt and retention of any non-reported case that is being held onsite at their agency.

### Medical Care

The undersigned medical care agencies agree to provide the following services in the course of providing care and evaluation to victims of sexual violence;

- In instances of victims of sexual violence who present initially to a medical agency, referral to the appropriate law enforcement agency;
- Information for the victim regarding payment responsibility. 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. The patient is responsible for aspects of treatment not related to evidence collection.
- To make victims of sexual violence aware that an advocate is available

through the West Georgia Prevention & Advocacy Resource Center, Inc. (PARC) to provide crisis intervention, information, counseling, and emotional and other support;

- To contact PARC's hotline (770-834-7273) in the event a victim or their family, or friend request advocacy services;
- To make victimized students at the University of West Georgia (UWG) aware that 24 hour confidential forensic medical services conducted by SANES and advocacy services are available at Health Services (470-215-9946);
- To contact UWG's Victim Services Crisis Line (470-215-9946) when a victimized student or their family or friends request medical or advocacy services;
- To provide victims of sexual violence with follow-up care information (e.g.: testing procedures/information for sexually transmitted disease, pregnancy testing information);
- To call upon fellow stakeholders for collaboration on projects related to sexual violence; and
- To contact other agencies (such as the Office of the District Attorney's Victim Advocate, Willowbrooke at Tanner, University of West Georgia Health Services, or PARC) as needed.
- Medical personnel conducting forensic medical exams shall access SAKTS to acknowledge receipt and collection of all reported and non-reported sexual assault kits. For reported cases, medical personnel shall use the tracking system to notify law enforcement that the kit is ready for pick-up. If the collection site/agency is a sexual assault center that has a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with local law enforcement to hold non-reported kits, center personnel shall utilize SAKTS to indicate any non-reported case that is being held onsite at their agency.

### Crisis Intervention

The undersigned Crisis Intervention agencies agree to provide the following services in the course of providing advocacy and crisis care to victims of sexual violence:


- In instances of a victim of sexual violence reporting initially to a crisis intervention agency, referral to the appropriate law enforcement agent and/or medical facility, when appropriate;
- In instances of mandated reporting, direct and timely reports filed with the appropriate agency (e.g.: child sexual assault to law enforcement or

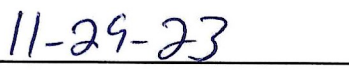


Department of Family and Children services, suicidal or homicidal threats to local law enforcement);

- To make victims aware of services provided through PARC, including in-person crisis intervention, medical and/or criminal justice accompaniment, counseling, information related to and assistance with victims' compensation, clothing/comfort kits for victims, and personal advocacy;
- To contact PARC's hotline (770-834-7273) in the event a victim or their family, or friend request advocacy services;
- To make victimized students at the University of West Georgia (UWG) aware that 24 hour confidential forensic medical services conducted by SANES and advocacy services are available at Health Services (470-215-9946); As well as in-person crisis intervention, medical and/or criminal justice accompaniment, counseling, criminal justice assistance, information related to victims' compensation, clothing/comfort kits for victims, and personal advocacy;
- To contact UWG's Victim Services Crisis Line (470-215-9946) when a victimized student or their family or friends request medical or advocacy services;
- To make appropriate referrals for professional counseling and/or mental health services;
- To refer victims for immediate mental health evaluation when deemed appropriate by the agent;
- Information and referrals to community resources; and
- To call upon fellow stakeholders for collaboration on projects related to sexual violence.

**This protocol was originally adopted on April 26, 2006, renewed July 11, 2007, February 10, 2010, August 13, 2011, June 7, 2013, March 2, 2020, December 15, 2021, January 31, 2023, and is renewed by the undersigned agencies.**

  
Terry E. Langley  
Sheriff, Carroll County

  
Date



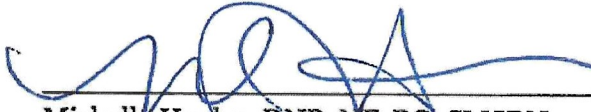
Joel Richards  
Chief, Carrollton Police Department

11/29/2023  
Date



George E. "Ned" Watson  
Chief, University of West Georgia Police

11/28/2023  
Date



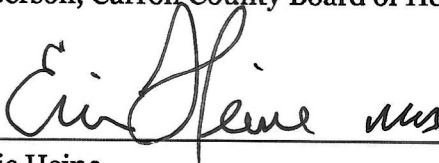
Michelle Hoehn, DNP, NE-BC, CMSRN  
Tanner Medical Center - Carrollton

11/27/2023  
Date



Dr. Laura Larson  
Chairperson, Carroll County Board of Health

11/28/2023  
Date



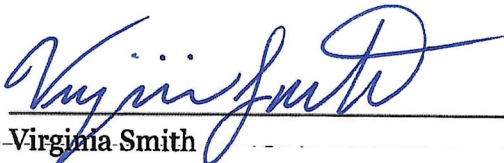
Dr. Eric Heine  
Medical Director, University of West Georgia  
Health Services

11/28/2023  
Date



Rob Dial  
Executive Director, West Georgia Prevention  
& Advocacy Resource Center, Inc.

11/27/2023  
Date



Virginia Smith  
Citizen Representative

11/27/2023  
Date



Nathaniel L. Smith  
Chief Magistrate Judge

11/29/2023

Date



John H. "Herb" Cranford  
District Attorney

11/29/2023

Date



John Simpson  
Chief Judge, Superior Court

11/30/23

Date