



Southwestern Judicial Circuit Protocol for the Sexual Assault Response Team

Macon, Lee, Schley, Sumter, Stewart and Webster Counties

Southwestern Judicial Circuit

SEXUAL ASSAULT PROTOCOL

April 29, 2025

This Southwestern Judicial Circuit Sexual Assault 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 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 process¹.

The mission of the Southwestern Judicial Circuit Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) is to promote a community-wide approach to end sexual violence and help victims of sexual assault to navigate the complexities of medical, emotional, and legal issues along with the associated procedures.

For purposes of this Protocol, the term **victim** shall refer to victims aged 18 years and older. Every sexual assault case involving victims under 18 years shall refer to the Southwestern Judicial Circuit Child Abuse Protocol in identifying appropriate services and resources. Per the state model Child Abuse protocol, those services and resources should include the Lighthouse Children's Advocacy Center in providing services to adolescents in acute cases. In providing services to anyone under the age of 18 years, DFACS and/or law enforcement shall be notified pursuant to O.C.G. A. § 19-7-5.

ADVOCACY

The role of the sexual assault victim advocate¹ 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 sexual assault victim 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 and the Georgia Sexual Assault Certification Standards*.

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 advocates

¹ 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.

² Defined as a trained sexual assault victim advocate working with a Georgia certified sexual assault center

- 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 effecting 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.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The role of the investigating officer is to ensure the safety 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:

1. Identification, apprehension and interrogation of suspect(s)
2. Interview of victim with an offender focused and trauma informed approach, which includes allowing an advocate to be present
3. Interview of witnesses
4. Collection and preservation of evidence
5. Maintenance of chain of custody
6. Timely submitting sexual assault evidence collection kits to GBI crime laboratory regardless of whether a suspect has been identified, per GBI recommendations
7. Review of GBI Crime lab reports as soon as possible after they are released to investigating agency, per GBI recommendations
8. Determination of probable cause and arrest
9. Preparation of case reports with investigative summaries
10. Assistance to District Attorney's office in prosecution of case
11. 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. § 15-17-1) and adhere to best practices as outlined in the *Georgia Sexual Assault Team Guide*.

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.

Medical forensic examinations shall be performed at Lighthouse Children's Advocacy Center. 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,

Medical forensic responsibilities include:

1. Obtaining informed consent from the patient for the medical forensic examination, documentation and evidence collection
2. Gathering the medical forensic history
3. Conducting a physical examination
4. Coordinating treatment of injuries
5. Documentation of biologic and physical findings Collection of evidence from the patient Documentation of findings
6. Providing information, treatment, and referrals for STIs, pregnancy
7. Follow-up as needed for additional treatment and/or collection of evidence
8. 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 Third Edition*), to obtain timely biologic reference samples for possible analysis at the GBI Crime Lab. 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 Crime Lab, 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 released to law enforcement for proper storage and handling.

REQUESTS FOR MEDICAL FORENSIC EXAMINATION

With the consent of the victim, 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:

1. The process is activated by the Law Enforcement officer after it is determined that a sexual assault medical exam is to be necessary. The SANE nurse and the Victim Advocate will be notified by Law Enforcement.
2. The police official will transport the victim to the SANE Center (800 GSW University Dr. Americus Ga. 31709) if the victim does not have transportation.
3. The SANE nurse will get a brief report form the Detective concerning the circumstances,
4. The SANE nurse will introduce herself to the victim.
5. Consents and procedures will be explained by the SANE nurse and signed by the victim.
6. The sexual assault interview and exam will be completed by the SANE nurse and the sexual assault victim advocate will be present if the victim requests.
7. If the victim presents to the Emergency Center the following should occur:
 - A. It will be determined if acute medical care is necessary.
 - B. The E.C. will notify law enforcement of the situation.
After law enforcement determines the need for a sexual assault exam, a SANE and Victim Advocate will be notified.

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 be available to 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.

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

The SANE, physician, nurse practitioner, PA or trained Lighthouse personnel will photograph injuries.

The SANE, physician, nurse practitioner or PA will 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*.

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 Lighthouse Children's Advocacy Center of the incident including which law enforcement agency is responding.

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 an court proceeding where the release of the accused will be considered
- To reasonable, accurate and timely notice of court proceedings or any changes to such proceedings, including restitution hearings
- To reasonable, accurate and timely notice of the accused's 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. § 17-10-11)
- 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)

If a victim attends any court proceeding, a victim advocate from the Lighthouse Children's Advocacy Center will accompany the victim.

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

LOCAL SART COORDINATED RESPONSE

All members of the Southwestern Judicial Circuit Sexual Assault Response Team will adhere to best practices as outlined.

Members of the Southwestern Judicial Circuit SART agree to meet monthly for case review, discussion and evaluation to assure the coordination and cooperation between all agencies responding to sexual assault cases in the Southwestern Judicial District.

Southwest Georgia Children's Alliance/ Lighthouse Children's Advocacy Center

Sexual Assault Victim Protocol

GENERAL

POLICY STATEMENT:

It shall be a policy of the Southwestern Judicial Circuit's Law Enforcement Departments and The Southwest Georgia Children's Alliance, Inc. (SWGACA) Nurse to provide continuity of care for the suspected sexual assault/abuse victim and to obtain an adequate history, perform the appropriate physical evaluation and render medical care as necessary,

PURPOSE STATEMENT:

To provide continuity of care for the suspected sexual assault/abuse victim and to obtain an adequate history, perform the appropriate physical evaluation, and render medical care as needed,

OBJECTIVES:

1. To ensure appropriate medical intervention.
 - A. The SANE nurse will initially triage the victim for any physical trauma.
 - B. If acute medical treatment should be required prior to the sexual assault exam, the SANE nurse will request the victim be transferred to the Emergency Center (E.C.) of choice.
** Injuries requiring immediate treatment include but are not limited to: respiratory difficulty, injuries to face or neck that might cause respiratory difficulty, severe bleeding, symptoms of physiological shock, blunt injury to the abdomen with severe, continued or increasing pain, and obvious boney injury.
** Injuries that require treatment after forensic exam include but are not limited to: lacerations that require suturing, injuries to the head or face, possible bone injuries.
2. To obtain legal evidence,
 - A. The SANE nurse will obtain the evidence through a medical interview and a forensic exam.
 - B. The SANE nurse will follow the guidelines of the sexual assault evidence collection kit. In non-acute cases, the SANE will follow pediatric protocols.
 - C. The SANE nurse will follow the chain of custody.
 - D. The SANE nurse will work in conjunction with the legal authorities.
3. To provide emotional support to the victim.
 - A. The SANE nurse will maintain the victim's confidentiality.
 - B. The SANE nurse will ensure the sexual assault victim advocate is present, if desired by the victim.
 - C. The SANE nurse will encourage the appropriate family/significant other's participation in the victim's plan of care, if victim desires.

ROLES:**Law Enforcement**

If a person 18 years of age or older makes a complaint of sexual assault to law enforcement, the following should happen.

- ▶ Responding uniform officer should gather all basic pertinent information (i.e. personal identification, date and time of incident and alleged offender information if known) and contact the on-call investigator immediately. The victim should not be questioned at the scene.
- ▶ Investigators should contact Lighthouse CAC with Amtelco Secure Messages app for a forensic medical exam. If the victim requires emergency medical care, the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) can respond to the emergency department to complete the medical exam and preserve evidence. Let the victim know it is not necessary to go to the emergency room for the sole purpose of the forensic medical exam.
- ▶ It is vital that the victim not be asked to recount the incident in detail before being seen at the Lighthouse CAC. The SANE is trained to obtain all pertinent information regarding specific details of the assault in a manner that is victim friendly. At the time of the nurse interview with the victim, the investigator may be present to hear the information given and ask questions pertaining to the reported incident.
- ▶ It is important for the victim to be seen by the SANE within 120 hours of the incident for optimal physical evidence collection, however, if the victim does not report within the 120-hour time frame, a forensic medical exam is still a vital piece of the investigation and a referral should be made immediately. If it has been greater than 120 hours when the victim receives the medical examination, based on details obtained in the nurse interview, it may still be possible to collect physical evidence.
- ▶ If the victim makes a complaint immediately following the incident, it is important that they do not shower or wash their clothing until they are seen by the SANE. The nurse will collect clothing items at the time of the exam to be processed as evidence for the case.

Medical

The SANE nurse is responsible for collecting all medical and physical evidence, obtaining any pertinent history, taking forensic photographs(or trained Lighthouse CAC staff member), maintaining the chain of custody, and documenting the findings on the medical record.

Emotional

The Sexual Assault Victim Advocate is responsible for staying with the victim from arrival through any follow-up investigation conducted - if the victim desires such support.

PROCEDURE:

4. The process is activated by the Law Enforcement officer after it is determined that a sexual assault medical exam is to be necessary. The SANE nurse and the Sexual Assault Victim Advocate will be notified by Law Enforcement.
5. The law enforcement official will transport the victim to the Lighthouse Children's Advocacy Center (800 GSW University Dr. Americus Ga. 31709) if the victim does not have transportation.
6. The SANE nurse will get a brief report form the Detective concerning the circumstances.
4. The SANE nurse will introduce herself to the victim.
5. Consents and procedures will be explained by the SANE nurse and signed by the victim.
6. The sexual assault interview and exam will be completed by the SANE nurse and the Sexual Assault Victim Advocate will be present if the victim requests.
7. If the victim calls for EMS transport or presents to the Emergency Department, the following should occur:
 - A. It will be determined if acute medical care is necessary.
 - B. EMS or the Emergency Department will notify law enforcement of the situation.
After law enforcement determines the need for a sexual assault exam, a SANE and Sexual Assault Victim Advocate will be notified.
8. Upon the completion of the exam, the SANE nurse will provide immediate referrals and give instructions for follow-up with the victim's private physician, the Public Health Department, and the Lighthouse Children's Advocacy Center as appropriate.
Plans for follow-up care should consider the needs of the patient, family/significant other, or friends after discussion with the appropriate staff members.
9. The victim is encouraged to shower and change into clean clothing once discharged.
10. The SANE nurse will complete her documentation and turn it over to the investigating agency, along with the evidence collection kit, clothing (if collected) and the film/photographs/CD-R (digital pictures).
11. The follow-up instructions will be reviewed with the victim prior to release. The victim will be released into a safe environment.

Southwest Georgia Children's Alliance/ Lighthouse Children's Advocacy Center

Sexual Assault Victim Protocol

EXAM PROTOCOL

POLICY STATEMENT:

It shall be the policy of The Southwest Georgia Children's Alliance, Inc. SANE Program to provide a consistent examination for the sexual assault victim by following an organized and formalized protocol.

PURPOSE STATEMENT:

Our purpose is to provide comprehensive care to the sexual assault victim and to assist law enforcement in the prosecution of sexual assault with systematic evidence collection.

SEXUAL ASSAULT PROTOCOL:

1. The victim will be interviewed and examined by a trained sexual assault nurse examiner.
(Victims under the age of 18 years will be interviewed by a trained forensic interviewer.)
The victim may be assisted by a Sexual Assault Victim Advocate on staff, who may accompany the alleged victim into the examining room. Law Enforcement officers will not be present in the exam room during the examination.
2. Consent forms will be explained to the victim/parent and appropriate signatures obtained. The forms will include:
 - A. consent for examination and photography
 - B. consent for release of information and evidence specimens
3. Gross General Examination
 - A. Past medical history (to include contraceptive and menstrual history).
 - B. Description of current assault
 - C. Physical appearance general forensic exam - e.g. describe clothing (dirty or torn), mental status, physical appearance (bruises or lacerations). If the victim scratched or fought attacker, fingernail clippings/scrapings should be taken, placed in clean envelope, identified in detail as to hand(s) and finger(s), sealed and signed by nurse examiner and placed in evidence kit.
 - D. Photographs

The nurse examiner, or trained Lighthouse CAC staff member) will take a photo of identification card which includes the date the photos are taken, victim's name, date of birth and age. Photos taken will also include a photo of the face for identification purposes as well as photos of each process of the medical exam. Any and all injuries will be photographed as they are noted during the examination.

- E. For acute cases, the victim should stand on a paper sheet to remove clothing. Each article of clothing is placed in a separate paper bag and labeled while maintaining chain of custody. The victim is then placed in exam gown.
- F. Obtain urine specimen for pregnancy test if indicated. Sexual assault victims who are at risk of pregnancy (post pubertal, premenopausal women who have not had a hysterectomy) and the pregnancy test completed by the S.A.N.E. nurse is NEGATIVE may be referred for Plan B©.

4. Forensic Genital, Anal, and Orla Exam

(Note: For specific details see rape kit instruction sheet)

Prior to collection, set up a swab holder and open a new, unused evidence collection kit. Place all swabs in the labeled swab holder during the examination, taking care not to cross contaminate swabs. Two swabs should be swabbed at the same time for each evidence collection.

1. Swab all areas identified as having contact with the suspect's bodily fluids. Before obtaining any other swabs, obtain a buccal DNA swab from the victim. If oral swabs are indicated for evidence collection, collect 2 sets of swabs 2 swabs are considered 1 set and are supplied as 2 swabs per package in the evidence collection kit. One set of swabs will be labeled as oral evidence and the other will be DNA reference swab.
2. Dried Semen on Body
 1. Examine body of victim (thighs, abdomen, etc.) for crusted areas, which may be dried semen. If suspected areas are noted, obtain a sample with swabs provided in the evidence collection kit provided by GBI and place in the appropriate container.
 2. To collect samples for DNA analysis, use the swabs provided in the Evidence Collection Kit provided by GBI.
3. Pubic Combings
 1. Obtain plastic comb and paper labeled "**PUBIC COMBINGS**" from rape evidence kit.
 2. Place paper under the edge of the buttocks.
 3. Use plastic comb to comb the pubic area to obtain any loose hairs which may be present.
 4. Fold paper along with the comb and fold a bundle to contain all material collected. Place in the correctly labeled envelope provided in the evidence collection kit provided by GBI.
4. Pelvic Examination-Use speculum (lubricant ok to use).
 1. Visualize external and internal genitalia including labia, clitoris, fourchette, vaginal vault and cervix with the colposcope. Take photos as evidence presents itself.
 2. Collect swab of cervix and vagina as necessary by utilizing swabs provided in the evidence collection kit provided by the GBI.
 3. Obtain rectal and perianal swab if indicated (dry, unstained).
 4. Obtain oral swabs if indicated.
 5. Crusty stains on face and hair should be collected as in 5.B. (Dried semen on body)
- E. Drying swabs used for evidence collection
 1. Turn on the swab drier. Set the timer for 30 minutes. Place the swab holder containing all swabs

collected in the center of the swab drier. Start the drying cycle. Allow the 30-minute drying cycle to complete.

2. Remove the swabs in the swab holder to a clean working area.

5. Labeling and sealing the evidence
 1. Identify the evidence envelopes in the evidence collection kit by name (example: DNA reference oral swab).
 2. Write the patient's name on the envelope in the "name" blank.
 3. Place the swabs in the envelope, swab tips first.
 4. Remove the seal cover for the envelope and press the flap firmly. The envelopes are pre-glued, so no wetting of the envelope is needed to seal.
 5. Once all swabs and other evidence such as nail scrapings and public combings have been sealed and labeled, complete the information on the exterior of the evidence collection kit.
 6. Place all sealed evidence in the evidence collection kit envelope. Do not put any loose items or unlabeled items in the evidence collection kit envelope.
 7. Remove the seal cover for the evidence collection kit and press the flap down firmly to seal. The evidence collection kit is pre-glued, so no wetting of the evidence collection kit is needed to seal.
 8. Apply the biohazard sticker in the identified area on the upper part of the evidence collection kit.
 9. Apply the evidence seal sticker across the flap of the evidence collection kit.
 10. Sign and date the evidence seal sticker as indicated. Also initial across the evidence sticker onto the evidence collection kit so that initials cross the evidence seal onto the evidence collection kit.
 11. Sign into the GBI SAKTS system. Transfer the completed evidence collection kit to the appropriate law enforcement agency. Create a survivor PIN and document the PIN on the card provided in the evidence collection kit.
 12. Release the evidence collection kit, report, and survivor PIN card to the law enforcement officer. The law enforcement should sign as receiving the kit at the time the kit is presented by the SANE.
 13. In the event that an evidence collection kit cannot be immediately released to law enforcement, the completed and sealed evidence collection kit and report will be sealed in the swab drying using a numbered seal. The date, time, and seal number will be documented with a note in the victim's file. When the evidence collection kit, report, and survivor PIN card are retrieved by a law enforcement officer, the time and date of release will be documented in the victim's file.
 14. Discard all unused pieces of the evidence collection kit. No items are to be saved and used for
 15. Another victim's evidence collection.
 16. Clean out the swab dried with a bleach wipe and allow to air dry before being used again.

6. Allow the victim to shower and dress in clean clothing. If the victim does not have clean clothing with her, it may be provided by the Lighthouse Children's Advocacy Center.

7. The victim will be given aftercare instruction sheets. The information will be reviewed with the victim, signature obtained and a copy of the forms retained for the victim's record. If any deviation from this protocol is necessary, it will be approved on a case by a case basis by the medical director/clinical director of the Lighthouse Children's Advocacy Center's sexual assault nurse examiner's program.

AFTER CARE

POLICY STATEMENT:

It shall be a policy of the Lighthouse Children's Advocacy Center for the SANE nurse and or the SANE Coordinator to provide written and verbal instructions addressing the medical and emotional needs for the sexual assault victim.

PURPOSE OF POLICY:

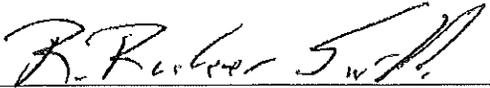
To provide written and verbal instructions addressing the medical and emotional issues for the sexual assault victim.

PROCEDURE AND CLARIFICATION:

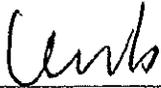
Upon completion of the physical exam, the SANE nurse and or the SANE Coordinator will:

1. Fill in the appropriate data on the instruction forms.
2. Give the sexual assault victim the Aftercare Instruction form addressing the physical, medical, emotional, and legal contact information.
3. Verbally review the handouts with the victim and support person, if applicable.
4. Make all necessary medial referrals and explain them to the victim, including referrals for drug and alcohol testing (if drug facilitated sexual assault is suspected), for STI testing with victim's primary care provider or local health department (whichever the victim prefers), and referral to counselling if desired by the victim.
5. Allow time for questions by the victim and/or significant other.
6. Instruct the victim to call for follow up appointment in a week to 10 days, if follow up is needed. Document follow up examination information on the chart.
7. Along with the rest of the Sexual Assault Response Team and the victim or significant other, assess immediate safety and support for the victim.

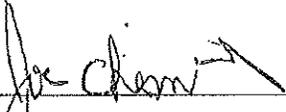
Signature Pages for April 28, 2025
Southwest Georgia Children's Alliance/Lighthouse CAC
Sexual Assault Victim Protocol
(Circuit Wide Protocol Members)



Southwestern Judicial Circuit Superior Court
R. Rucker Smith, Chief Superior Court Judge



Southwestern Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office
Lewis Lamb, District Attorney



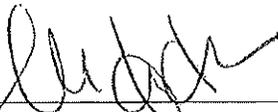
Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Joe Chesnut, Special Agent in Charge



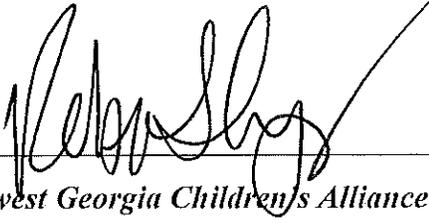
Lighthouse CAC SANE Medical Director
Dr. Judy Yeh, MD, FACOG



Lighthouse Children's Advocacy Center
Laurie Sheffield Director



Muggie McGruther
Southwest Georgia Children's Alliance, Inc. Executive Director



*Southwest Georgia Children's Alliance Mental Health
Rebecca Ferguson, LMFT*



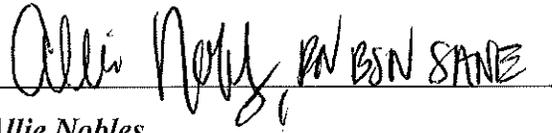
Rhonda Slocumb

SANE Coordinator/SANE Nurse



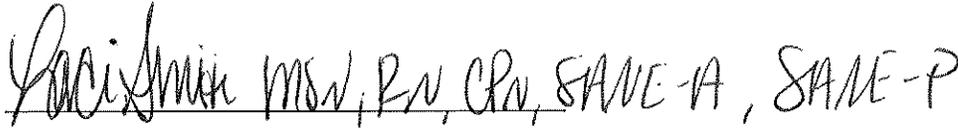
Meg Usrey

SANE Nurse



Allie Nobles

SANE Nurse

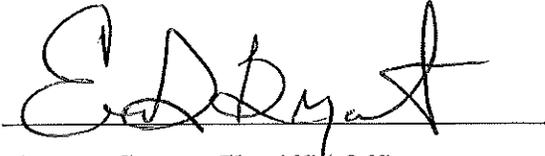


Laci Smith

SANE Nurse

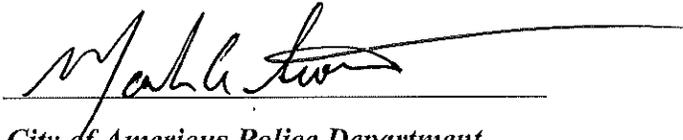
Signature Pages for April 28, 2025
Southwest Georgia Children's Alliance/Lighthouse CAC
Sexual Assault Victim Protocol

Sumter County

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

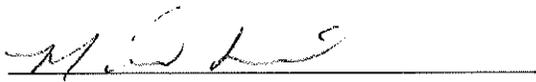
Sumter County Sheriff's Office

Eric Bryant, Sheriff

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

City of Americus Police Department

Mark Scott, Chief

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

GSW Campus Police

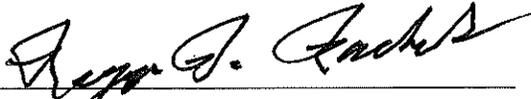
Michael Lewis, Chief

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily Whitley RN", written over a horizontal line.

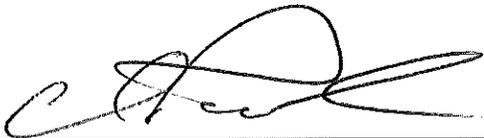
Sumter County Public Health Department

Emily Whitley, Nurse Manger

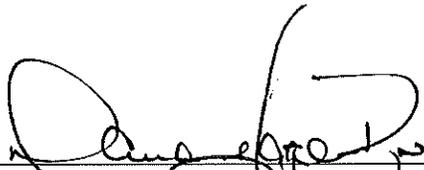
Signature Pages for April 28, 2025
Southwest Georgia Children's Alliance/Lighthouse CAC
Sexual Assault Victim Protocol
Lee County



Lee County Sheriff's Office
Reggie D. Rachals, Sheriff



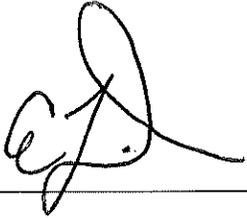
Leesburg Police Department
Christopher Prokesh, Police Chief



Lee County Public Health Department
Dana Hager, Nurse Manager

Signature Pages for April 28, 2025
Southwest Georgia Children's Alliance/Lighthouse CAC
Sexual Assault Victim Protocol

Macon County



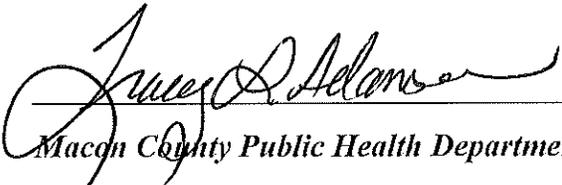
City of Montezuma Police Department

Eric Finch, Chief



Macon County Sheriff's Office

Carlos Felton, Sheriff



Macon County Public Health Department

Tracey Adamson, Nurse Manager



City of Oglethorpe Police Department

James Breletic, Chief

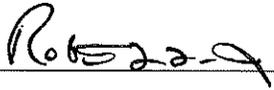
Signature Pages for April 28, 2025
Southwest Georgia Children's Alliance/Lighthouse CAC
Sexual Assault Victim Protocol

Schley County



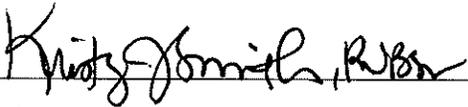
Schley County Sheriff's Office

Scott Nelson, Sheriff



City of Ellaville Police Department

Robbie Lightner, Chief

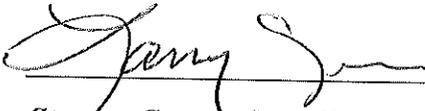


Schley County Public Health Department

Kristy Smith, Nurse Manager

Signature Pages for April 28, 2025
Southwest Georgia Children's Alliance/Lighthouse CAC
Sexual Assault Victim Protocol

Stewart County



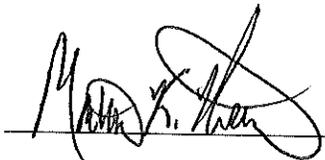
Stewart County Sheriff's Office

Larry Jones, Sheriff



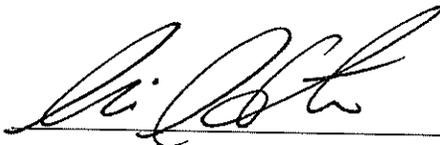
Richland Police Department

Bubba McDonald, Chief



Lumpkin Police Department

Matthew Holloway, Chief



Stewart County Public Health Department

Maci Hutcheson, Nurse Manager

Signature Pages for April 28, 2025
Southwest Georgia Children's Alliance/Lighthouse CAC
Sexual Assault Victim Protocol

Webster County



Webster County Sheriff's Office

Randy Dely, Sheriff



Webster County Public Health Department

Haley Dobbs, Nurse Manager