



OFFICE OF THE MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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A Message to Crime Victims from Mercer County Prosecutor's Office of Victim Witness Advocacy

The Mercer County Prosecutor's Office of Victim Witness Advocacy is aware that you are a victim of a crime. As a victim of sexual assault, it is important you know what resources are available to you. Our office provides referrals for services that may benefit you during this difficult time. This includes referrals for counseling, medical care, compensation for out-of-pocket expenses related to the crime and much more. Please refer to the attached documents for more specific resources.

Understanding the criminal justice system can be a daunting task. In order to help you become more familiar with the process we have attached documents that break down the general course a criminal investigation and case take. We have also included information on victims' rights and protection orders available to victims of sexual assault.

We hope the information provided helps guide you to the support you need at this time. Please contact the Office of Victim Witness Advocacy at (609) 989-6428 should you have any questions and/or would like more information.

Sincerely,

ANGELO J. Onofri
Mercer County Prosecutor

SUSAN MEYER
Victim Witness Coordinator

Sexual Assault Victim's Bill of Rights

N.J. Stat. Ann. § 52:4B-60.1 et seq.

In New Jersey, victims of sexual violence are afforded the following rights:

- (1) To have any allegation of sexual assault treated seriously; to be treated with dignity and compassion; and to be notified of existing medical, counseling, mental health, or other services available for victims of sexual assault, whether or not the crime is reported to law enforcement;
- (2) To be free, to the extent consistent with the New Jersey or United States Constitution, from any suggestion that victims are responsible for the commission of crimes against them or any suggestion that victims were contributorily negligent or assumed the risk of being assaulted;
- (3) To be free from any suggestion that victims are to report the crimes to be assured of any other guaranteed right and that victims should refrain from reporting crimes in order to avoid unwanted personal publicity;
- (4) When applicable, to no-cost access to the services of a sexual assault response team comprised of: a certified forensic nurse examiner, a confidential sexual violence advocate, and a law enforcement official as provided in accordance with the Attorney General's Standards for Providing Services to Victims of Sexual Assault, and the choice to opt into or out of any of the team's services;
- (5) To be informed of, and assisted in exercising, the right to be confidentially or anonymously tested for acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) or infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or any other related virus identified as a probable causative agent of AIDS; and to be informed of, and assisted in exercising, any rights that may be provided by law to compel and disclose the results of testing of a sexual assault suspect for communicable diseases;
- (6) To have forensic medical evidence, if collected, retained for a minimum of five years, and to receive information about the status of the evidence upon request;
- (7) To choose whether to participate in any investigation of the assault;
- (8) To reasonable efforts to provide treatment and interviews in a language in which the victim is fluent and the right to be given access to appropriate assistive devices to accommodate disabilities that the victim may have, whether temporary or long term;
- (9) To information and assistance in accessing specialized mental health services; protection from further violence; other appropriate community or governmental services, including services provided by the Victims of Crime Compensation Office; and all other assistance available to crime victims under current law;
- (10) To be apprised of the availability and process by which a court may order the taking of testimony from a victim via closed circuit television in accordance with section 1 of P.L.1985, c.126 (C.2A:84A-32.4); and
- (11) To be apprised of the availability and process by which to seek protections through a temporary or final protective order under the "Sexual Assault Survivor Protection Act of 2015," P.L.2015, c.147 (C.2C:14-13 et seq.), if the victim believes that the victim is at risk for re-victimization or further harm by the perpetrator.



Declaración de Derechos de La Víctima de Agresión Sexual

N.J. Stat. Ann. § 52:4B-60.1 et seq.

En Nueva Jersey a las víctimas de violencia sexual se les otorgan los siguientes derechos:

- (1) Que toda denuncia de agresión sexual sea tratada con seriedad; ser tratada/o con dignidad y compasión; y de ser notificada/o de servicios disponibles ya sean médicos, de consejería y asesoramiento, de salud mental, o de otros tipos disponibles para las víctimas de agresión sexual ya sea que se haya reportada el delito a las agencias del orden público o no.
- (2) De estar libres, en la medida compatible con la Constitución de Nueva Jersey o de Los Estados Unidos, de cualquier inferencia que las víctimas son las responsables por los delitos que se cometen en su contra o de alguna inferencia que las víctimas contribuyeron al delito por su negligencia o que asumido el riesgo de ser agredidas/os.
- (3) De estar libres de cualquier inferencia que las víctimas deben reportar los delitos para que se les asegure algún otro derecho garantizado y que las víctimas deben evitar reportar los delitos para evitar publicidad personal no deseada.
- (4) Cuando aplique, al acceso sin costo a los servicios de un equipo de respuesta a la agresión sexual comprendido por una enfermera examinadora forense certificada, un asesor confidencial de violencia sexual, y un oficial del orden público como lo indican los Estándares de la Oficina del Fiscal General para proveer servicios a las Víctimas de Agresión Sexual, y de tener la opción de participar o no con los servicios que provee el equipo y que usted escoja.
- (5) De que se le informe y que se le ayude a ejercer su derecho a obtener pruebas confidenciales para detectar el Síndrome de Inmunodeficiencia Adquirida (SIDA) o la infección con el Virus de Inmunodeficiencia Humana (VIH) o de cualquier otro virus relacionado e identificado como probable agente causante del SIDA; y de permanecer informada/o y recibir asistencia al ejercer cualquier derecho que le otorgue la ley para requerir y divulgar los resultados de pruebas que se le hayan hecho a un sospechoso de agresión sexual para detectar enfermedades transmisibles;
- (6) Que se guarden los resultados de las pruebas médicas forenses, si es que se han colectado, por un mínimo de cinco años, y de recibir información sobre la condición/estatus de las evidencias cuando la solicite.
- (7) Decidir si participar o no en la investigación de la agresión.
- (8) Que se hagan esfuerzos razonables para proveer tratamiento y entrevistas en el idioma en el que la víctima hable con fluidez y dar acceso a dispositivos de asistencia adecuados en relación a cualquier incapacidad que pueda tener la víctima ya sea temporal o a largo plazo;
- (9) A tener información y ayuda para poder tener acceso a servicios especializados de salud mental; a protección contra nuevos actos de violencia; a otros servicios apropiados ya sean comunitarios o gubernamentales, incluyendo los servicios proveídos por la Oficina de Compensación para Víctimas del Crimen; y toda otra ayuda disponible a víctimas de delitos conforme a las leyes vigentes.
- (10) De ser informada/o de la disponibilidad y el proceso por el cual un tribunal puede ordenar testimonio de una víctima a través de circuito cerrado de televisión conforme a la sección 1 de P.L. 1985, c.126 (C.2A:84A-32.4); y
- (11) De ser informada/o sobre la disponibilidad y el proceso para solicitar protección mediante una orden de alejamiento temporal o permanente conforme a “la Ley de protección a sobrevivientes de agresiones sexuales del 2015,” P.L.2015, c.147 (C.2C:14-13 et seq.), si la víctima cree que corre el riesgo de ser víctima de nuevo o de daño adicional por parte del autor.

NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE



NEW JERSEY CRIME VICTIMS BILL OF RIGHTS

- To be treated with dignity and compassion by the criminal justice system.
- To be informed about the criminal justice process.
- To be free from intimidation.
- To have inconveniences associated with participation in the criminal justice process minimized to the fullest extent possible.
- To make at least one telephone call from the police station provided the call is reasonable in both length and location called.
- To medical assistance if, in the judgment of the law enforcement agency, medical assistance appears necessary.
- To be notified if presence in court is not needed.
- To be informed about available remedies, financial assistance and social services.
- To be compensated for their loss whenever possible.
- To be provided a secure, but not necessarily separate, waiting area during court proceedings.
- To be advised of case progress and final disposition.
- To the prompt return of property when no longer needed as evidence.
- To submit a written statement about the impact of the crime to a representative of the county prosecutor's office which shall be considered prior to the prosecutor's final decision concerning whether formal criminal charges will be filed; and
- To make, prior to sentencing, an in-person statement directly to the sentencing court concerning the impact of the crime. This statement is to be made in addition to the statement permitted for inclusion in the pre-sentence report.

LA DECLARACIÓN DE DERECHOS DE NUEVA JERSEY PARA LAS VÍCTIMAS DE CRIMENES

- Ser tratado con dignidad y compasión por el Sistema de justicia criminal.
- Ser informado del proceso de justicia criminal.
- Ser libre de intimidación.
- Tener inconvenientes asociados con la participación en el proceso de justicia criminal minimizado en la mayor medida.
- Tener al menos una llamada telefónica en la estación de policía, con tal que la llamada sea razonable en ambos duración y locación.
- Tener asistencia medica, siempre y cuando la asistencia medica se necesite y sea evaluado por la agencia de las fuerzas de orden.
- Ser notificado si la presencia en la corte es necesaria.
- Ser informado de remedios, asistencia financiera y servicios sociales disponibles.
- Ser compensado por perdidas monetarias cuando posible.
- Ser proveído una área segura, pero no necesariamente separada, durante procedimientos judiciales.
- Ser advertidos de progreso en el caso judicial y disposición final.
- El regreso de propiedad personal rápida cuando no se necesite como evidencia.
- Poder someter una declaración escrita del impacto del crimen a un representante de la oficina del fiscal, cuyo sea tomado en cuenta antes de la decisión final del fiscal, sobre si se presentaran cargos criminales formales; y
- Presentar, antes de la sentencia final, una declaración ante la corte de sentencia concerniente al impacto del crimen hacia usted. Esta declaración será presentada en adición a la declaración incluida en el reporte de pre-sentencia.



LAW & LEGISLATION

the sexual assault survivor protection act (SASPA)



The **Sexual Assault Survivor Protection Act (SASPA)** expands opportunities for survivors of sexual violence to apply for a protective order against their perpetrator, without reporting to law enforcement or filing criminal charges. SASPA was passed into law in November 2015 and was enacted in May 2016.

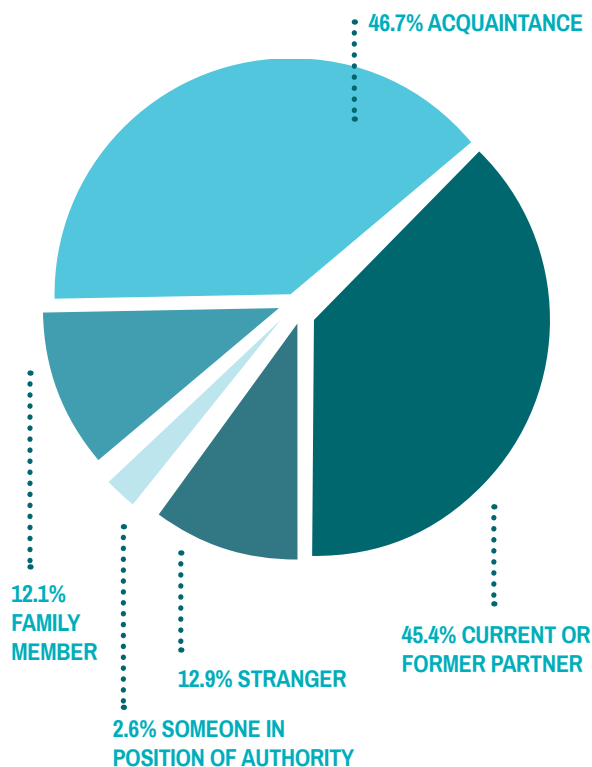
The vast majority of sexual violence survivors **know their perpetrator**. SASPA closed a legal loophole, where protective orders weren't available for survivors of sexual assault unless there was a charge or conviction.

WHAT IS A PROTECTIVE ORDER & WHAT DOES IT DO?

A protective order is a document issued by the court to help protect a survivor from a perpetrator and stop any further acts of violence or intimidating behaviors.

A protective order can shield survivors from:

- Further acts of violence
- Seeing a perpetrator (the person can be prevented from entering specific places that the survivor or their household members regularly frequent, such as work, home, or school)
- Future contact with their perpetrator (whether in-person, over the phone, or through another person)
- Stalking behaviors
- Harassment, including online harassment, of the survivor, their family members, or their employer/employees
- Any other relief the court deems appropriate



Data per the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2014. Results add up to over 100% to account for multiple perpetrators.

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The New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJCSA) is the statewide organization representing 21 county-based rape crisis centers and Rutgers University's Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance. NJCSA elevates the voices of survivors and service providers through advocacy, training, and support for efforts to create safer communities for all women, men and children.

WHAT IS A PROTECTIVE ORDER & WHAT DOES IT DO?

There are two types of protective orders: a temporary protective order (TPO) and a final protective order (FPO).

- A **temporary protective order** is the initial type of protective order survivors can receive. It protects

against the same kind of harassing behaviors as a final protective order, but it only remains in place until the final protective order hearing.

- A **final protective order** outlines harassing behaviors that cannot continue. It is forwarded to the police department where the survivor lives, as well as where the perpetrator lives. FPOs never expire, and are valid anywhere in New Jersey.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR A PROTECTIVE ORDER UNDER SASPA?

Generally, survivors of sexual violence who are subjected to continued harassing behaviors from their abuser, who do not qualify for a domestic violence restraining order, can apply for a protective order under SASPA.

Survivors can apply for a protective order regardless of if the assault was reported to law enforcement.

If you feel you are in **immediate danger**, contact local law enforcement.

WHY MAY SOMEONE CHOOSE TO APPLY FOR A PROTECTIVE ORDER?

Everyone's situation is unique and requesting a protective order is a decision only the survivor can make. For some, a protective order will end harmful behaviors. Others may feel a protective order could cause a perpetrator to escalate.

Protective order hearings can be stressful – it may not be the right decision for you at this time, or ever. **Every person has the right** to practice self-care and make decisions that are best for their own wellbeing.

▶ be prepared:

While a protective order will discourage many perpetrators from continuing harassing behavior, it is often one piece of a comprehensive plan for safety and well-being. Working with an advocate may help a survivor feel empowered to access other support systems.

HOW DO SURVIVORS APPLY FOR A TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE ORDER?

A person who is seeking a protective order may file in person at the Superior Court in their county. A list of courthouses in New Jersey is available at:

<https://www.njcasa.org/find-a-courthouse/>

The process may take several hours. You will need to provide a *specific and comprehensive* written statement to a hearing officer. Everything included in this statement can be brought up in the protective order hearing(s); anything not included *cannot be referenced in your testimony*.

It's important that the statement comprehensively details abusive or harassing behaviors and is specific. Include actual language the perpetrator used.

📱 example:

Rather than saying, "He texted me a lot," include detail, such as: "He texted me six times in one hour, threatening to release pictures of me."

There are no court fees associated with receiving a TPO. While a lawyer is not necessary to seek a PO, it may be helpful to speak to one or to contact an advocate. Your county-based sexual violence service provider can provide trained advocates to provide additional information, link you with resources, and offer emotional support; **find a program at:**

<https://www.njcasa.org/find-help>

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[HTTPS://WWW.NJCASA.ORG/SASPA/](https://www.njcasa.org/saspa/)



How to File a New Jersey Sexual Assault Survivor Protection Act (SASPA) Complaint Superior Court of New Jersey - Chancery Division - Family Part

****Please be advised this packet is intended to only be used during the COVID-19 crisis.****

Who Should Use This Packet?

This packet should only be used the **first time** you file for a Sexual Assault Survivor Protective Order.

Use this packet if you are:

A victim of nonconsensual sexual contact, sexual penetration, or lewdness, (see definitions on page 3) or any attempt at such conduct, and who does **not** meet the definition of a “domestic violence victim” in the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (PDVA).

- A victim's parent or guardian may file on behalf of the victim in any case in which the victim:
 - is less than 18 years of age; or
 - has a developmental disability or a mental disease or defect that renders the victim temporarily or permanently incapable of understanding the nature of the victim’s conduct, including, but not limited to, being incapable of providing consent

Do NOT use this packet if:

- You meet the definition of a “victim” under the PDVA - N.J.S.A. 2C:25-19 (d)(a) which is as follows:
 - A person protected by the PDVA includes any person:
 - **Who** is 18 years of age or older, **or** who is an emancipated minor, and who has been subjected to domestic violence by:
 - ❖ Spouse
 - ❖ Former spouse
 - ❖ Any other person who is a present household member or was at any time a household member, or
 - **Who, regardless of age**, has been subjected to domestic violence by a person:
 - ❖ With whom the victim has a child in common, or
 - ❖ With whom the victim anticipates having a child in common, if one of the parties is pregnant, or has been subjected to domestic violence by a person with whom the victim has had a dating relationship.

NOTE: If you are a victim of domestic violence and want to file for a domestic violence restraining order, please contact your local law enforcement agency.

- If you are filing on behalf of a minor child and the person you are filing against is a parent or guardian of the minor child, you cannot file under the Sexual Assault Survivor Protection Act. You must call the Division of Permanency and Protection at: 1-877 NJ ABUSE (1-877-652-2873); TTY/TDD 1-800-835-5510

Note: These materials have been prepared by the New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts for use by self-represented litigants. The guides, instructions, and forms will be periodically updated as necessary to reflect current New Jersey statutes and court rules. The most recent version of the forms will be available at the county courthouse or on the Judiciary’s Internet site njcourts.gov. However, you are ultimately responsible for the content of your court papers.

Completed forms are to be submitted to your local Family Division. A list of Family Division Offices can be found on njcourts.gov

Things to Think About Before You Represent Yourself in Court

Try to Get a Lawyer

The law, the proofs necessary to present your case, and the procedural rules governing cases in the Family Division are complex. It is recommended that you make every effort to obtain the assistance of a lawyer. If you cannot afford a lawyer, you may contact the legal services program in your county to see if you qualify for free legal services. Their telephone number can be found online under “Legal Aid” or “[Legal Services](#).”

If you do not qualify for free legal services and need help in locating an attorney, you can contact the bar association in your county. The telephone number can also be found in your local yellow pages. Most county bar associations have a [Lawyer Referral Service](#).

The County Bar Lawyer Referral Service can supply you with the names of attorneys in your area willing to handle your particular type of case and will sometimes consult with you at a reduced fee.

There are a variety of organizations of minority lawyers throughout New Jersey, as well as organizations of lawyers who handle specialized types of cases. Ask the Family court staff in your county for a list of lawyer referral services that include these organizations.

What You Should Expect If You Represent Yourself

While you have the right to represent yourself in court, you should not expect special treatment, help or attention from the court. The following is a list of some things court staff can and cannot do for you. Please read it carefully before asking court staff for help.

- We *can* explain and answer questions about how the court works.
- We *can* tell you what the requirements are to have your case considered by the court.
- We *can* give you some information from your case file.
- We *can* provide you with samples of court forms that are available.
- We *can* provide you with guidance on how to fill out forms.
- We *can* usually answer questions about court deadlines.
- We *cannot* give you legal advice. Only your lawyer can give you legal advice.
- We *cannot* tell you whether or not you should bring your case to court.
- We *cannot* give you an opinion about what will happen if you bring your case to court.
- We *cannot* recommend a lawyer, but we can provide you with the telephone number of a local lawyer referral service.
- We *cannot* talk to the judge for you about what will happen in your case.
- We *cannot* let you talk to the judge outside of court.
- We *cannot* change an order issued by a judge.

Keep Copies of All Papers

Make and keep copies for yourself, written agreements, Case Information Statements, and other important papers that relate to your case

Definitions of Court Terms Used in SASPA Cases

Certification - A *certification* is a written statement made to the court when you file papers with the court, swearing that the information contained in the filed papers is true subject to penalty if any statement is willfully false.

Complaint - A *complaint* is a formal document filed in court that starts a case. It typically includes the names of the parties and the issues you are asking the court to decide.

Court Order - A *court order* is the written decision issued by a court of law. For example, a child support court order sets forth how often, how much, and what kind of support is to be paid.

Defendant - the party sued in a civil lawsuit or the party charged with a crime in a criminal prosecution. In some types of cases (such as divorce) a defendant may be called a respondent.

Docket Number - The *docket number* is the identifying number assigned to every case filed in the court.

File - To *file* means to give the appropriate forms to the court to begin the court's consideration of your request.

Intimate Parts - Means the following body parts: sexual organs, genital area, anal area, inner thigh, groin, buttock, or breast of a person.

Lewdness - Means the exposing of the genitals for the purpose of arousing or gratifying the sexual of the actor.

Party - A *party* is a person, business, or governmental agency involved in a court action.

Petitioner - *Petitioner* is another name for the person starting the court action by filing the appropriate papers the court will consider.

Respondent - *Respondent* is the person who is named as the other party in the court action filed by the petitioner. This person can respond to the complaint or application filed by the petitioner by filing a cross application or written response with the court.

Sexual Conduct - Means an intentional touching by the victim or actor, either directly or through clothing, of the victim's or actor's intimate parts for the purpose of degrading or humiliating the victim or sexually arousing or sexually gratifying the actor.

Sexual Penetration - Means vaginal intercourse, cunnilingus, fellatio, or anal intercourse between persons or insertion of the hand, finger, or object into the anus or vagina either by the actor or upon the actor's instruction.

The numbered steps listed below tell you what forms you will need to fill out and what to do with them. Each form should be typed or printed clearly on 8 ½ "x 11" white paper only. Forms cannot be filed on a different size or color paper. Use only the forms included in this packet. Be sure to keep a copy for your records.

Steps for Filing a Complaint

STEP 1: Fill out the Intake Form (Form A)

The Intake form provides your and/or the minor child's demographic information. This information will be kept confidential and will not be shared with the defendant.

STEP 2: Fill out the *Verified Complaint* (Form B)

The *Verified Complaint* is a written request in which you ask the court to establish a court order on your behalf or on a minor child's behalf. The court will establish an order based on testimony of the parties and written documentation submitted.

STEP 3: Additional Information Sheet (FORM C)

This form is provided if you need additional space to type the details of the incident for which you are filing for a protective order.

STEP 4: Provide the court with the most recent address of the other party

If the court grants a temporary order of protection, the court will send a Notice to Appear to the plaintiff and the defendant and any attorney(s) connected to your case when the case is scheduled for a final hearing. Your appearance is **mandatory**.

Note: The other party will receive copies of all the papers you attach (except for the Intake Form) to your complaint with the Notice to Appear, unless court rules prohibit this information from being shared.

You must provide the court with the most current address (that you know of) for the other party and the name of their attorney (if you know it) when you file your complaint.

STEP 5: Check your completed forms and make copies

Check your forms and make sure they are complete. Remove all instruction sheets. Make sure you have signed all the forms wherever necessary.

STEP 6: Submit your completed paperwork

Submit your completed packet through the Judiciary Electronic Document System (JEDS). You may find the link to JEDS here <https://www.njcourts.gov/selfhelp/jeds.html>. In JEDS please select the county where you would like to file your application. You may file your complaint in the county where the conduct or attempted conduct occurred, where the defendant resides, or where you reside or are sheltered.

NOTE:

These applications may only be filed in the Family Division of the Superior Court during normal business hours.

These applications may only be taken at the Superior Court and are not to be accepted at Municipal Courts and/or police departments.

All courthouse addresses can be found on njcourts.gov.

Instructions for Completing the SASPA Intake Form (Form A)

1. Part I of the SASPA Intake form is for the Plaintiff/Victim information. If you are the victim, enter your own information or if you are a parent or guardian enter the minor child's information for the following fields:
 - a. Name
 - b. Social security number
 - c. Date of birth
 - d. Address
 - e. Telephone number
 - f. Cell phone number
 - g. Email Address
 - h. Employer name
 - i. Employer address
 - j. Employer telephone number
 - k. Emergency Contact
 - l. Emergency Contact telephone number

2. If you are filing on behalf of a minor child, enter complete the following fields on the second portion of the intake form under Parent/Guardian section.
 - a. Name
 - b. Relation to the child
 - c. Social security number
 - d. Date of birth
 - e. Address
 - f. Telephone number
 - g. Cell phone number
 - h. Email Address
 - i. Employer name
 - j. Employer address
 - k. Employer telephone number

NOTE: The Intake Form (FORM A) will be kept confidential and will not be given to the other party/defendant.

Instructions for Completing a Verified Complaint (Form B)

- A. Leave the *Docket Number* blank. The court will provide this number for you.
- B. On the right side of the form, enter the *County* where you are filing the application.
- C. Enter your name or the minor's name, if you are filing a complaint on the behalf of a minor child, in the space marked "*Plaintiff/Victim*".
- D. If you are filing on behalf of a minor child, enter your name in the space marked "*Plaintiff/Parent/Guardian*".
- E. Enter your date of birth or the minor's date of birth in the space marked "*Plaintiff/Victim's Date of Birth*".
- F. Enter your date of birth if you are filing on behalf of a minor child in the space marked "*Plaintiff/Parent/Guardian Date of Birth*".
- G. On the right side of the form, enter the defendant's description if known in the following fields:
 - a. Defendant's sex
 - b. Defendant's race
 - c. Defendant's date of birth
 - d. Defendant's height
 - e. Defendant's weight
 - f. Defendant's eye color
 - g. Defendant's hair color
 - h. Any distinguishing features that the defendant may have such as scars, tattoos, facial hair etc.
 - i. Defendant's driver's license number and the state it was issued if known.
- H. Enter the Defendant's name in the space marked "*Defendant Information: Name:*".
- I. Enter the Defendant's "*home and cell phone number*", "*work phone number*", "*social security number*" "*e-mail address*" and "*home and work address*" in the appropriately marked spaces on the form.
- J. Enter the date the defendant committed the act in the space marked "*ON (Date)*".
- K. Enter the time the defendant committed the act in the space marked "*AT (Time)*".
- L. Enter the details of the act(s) the defendant committed in the space marked "*BY (Details)*". You can continue to use as many lines as necessary to state the exact details of the act(s) the defendant committed against you or minor child.
- M. Check off the act or acts the defendant committed: "*Sexual Contact, Sexual Penetration, Lewdness*". See definitions of each act in the definitions section of this packet.
- N. Answer "*Yes*" or "*No*" on Question 1 regarding prior or pending court proceedings involving yourself, if

you are the plaintiff/victim, or the minor plaintiff/victim, and the defendant in this complaint. If you select “Yes”, enter the title of the case, the docket number and the county and state where the case is being heard.

- O. Answer “Yes” or “No” on Question 2 regarding whether a criminal complaint has been filed in this matter. If you select “Yes”, enter the date, docket number and the county and state where the case is being.
- P. The form must have the signature of the party filing the complaint. If you cannot scan a signed copy of this document, please type your name in the signature line.



New Jersey Judiciary

Sexual Assault Survivors Protection Act (SASPA) Intake Form

To assure accuracy of court records – To be filled out by the Plaintiff or Attorney
Confidentiality of this information must be maintained

Please complete the entire form, leaving no blank spaces. If something does not apply to you, enter "N/A". This form is confidential and will not be shared with the other party.

I. Victim Information

Name: Last		First	Middle Initial
Social Security Number		Date of Birth	
Address: Street		City	State Zip Code
Telephone Number		Cell Phone Number	
Email Address			
Employer Name			
Employer Address: Street		City	State Zip Code
Employer Telephone Number			
Emergency Contact Name		Emergency Contact Telephone Number	

II. Parent/Guardian Information

Name: Last		First	Middle Initial
Relation to the Child		Social Security Number	Date of Birth
Address: Street		City	State Zip Code
Telephone Number		Cell Phone Number	
Email Address			
Employer Name			
Employer Address: Street		City	State Zip Code
Employer Telephone Number			
Emergency Contact Name		Emergency Contact Telephone Number	

III. Hearing Information

Will an interpreter be required?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, indicate language: _____		
Will an accommodation for a disability be required?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, indicate requested accommodation: _____		

New Jersey Sexual Assault Survivor Protection Act Complaint

_____ County, Superior Court,
Chancery Division, Family Part

Docket Number
FV -

Plaintiff/Victim _____ Plaintiff/Victim's Date of Birth _____

Plaintiff/Parent/Guardian of Minor Plaintiff/Victim _____

Plaintiff/Parent/Guardian of Minor Plaintiff/Victim Date of Birth _____

Defendant Information: Name _____

Home Phone Number _____ Work Phone Number _____ Defendant's Social Security Number _____

Cell Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Defendant's Sex _____ Defendant's Race _____

Date of Birth _____ Height _____ Weight _____

Eye Color _____ Hair Color _____

Distinguishing Features (Scars, Facial Hair, Etc.) _____

Driver's License Number _____

State _____ Driver's License Expiration Date _____

Home Address _____

Work Address _____

The undersigned complains that said defendant did commit the following act(s):

ON (Date)	AT (Time)	BY (Details)

The above constitute(s) the following criminal offenses(s): (Check all applicable boxes – see page 3 of instructions):

Sexual Contact Sexual Penetration Lewdness

Attempted Sexual Contact Attempted Sexual Penetration Attempted Lewdness

1. Any prior or pending court proceedings involving this plaintiff/victim and defendant? (If Yes, enter docket number, court, county, state) Yes No

2. Has a criminal complaint been filed in this matter? (If Yes, enter date, docket number, court, county, state) Yes No

If yes, was a Restraining Order granted? Yes No

Certification by Parent/Guardian

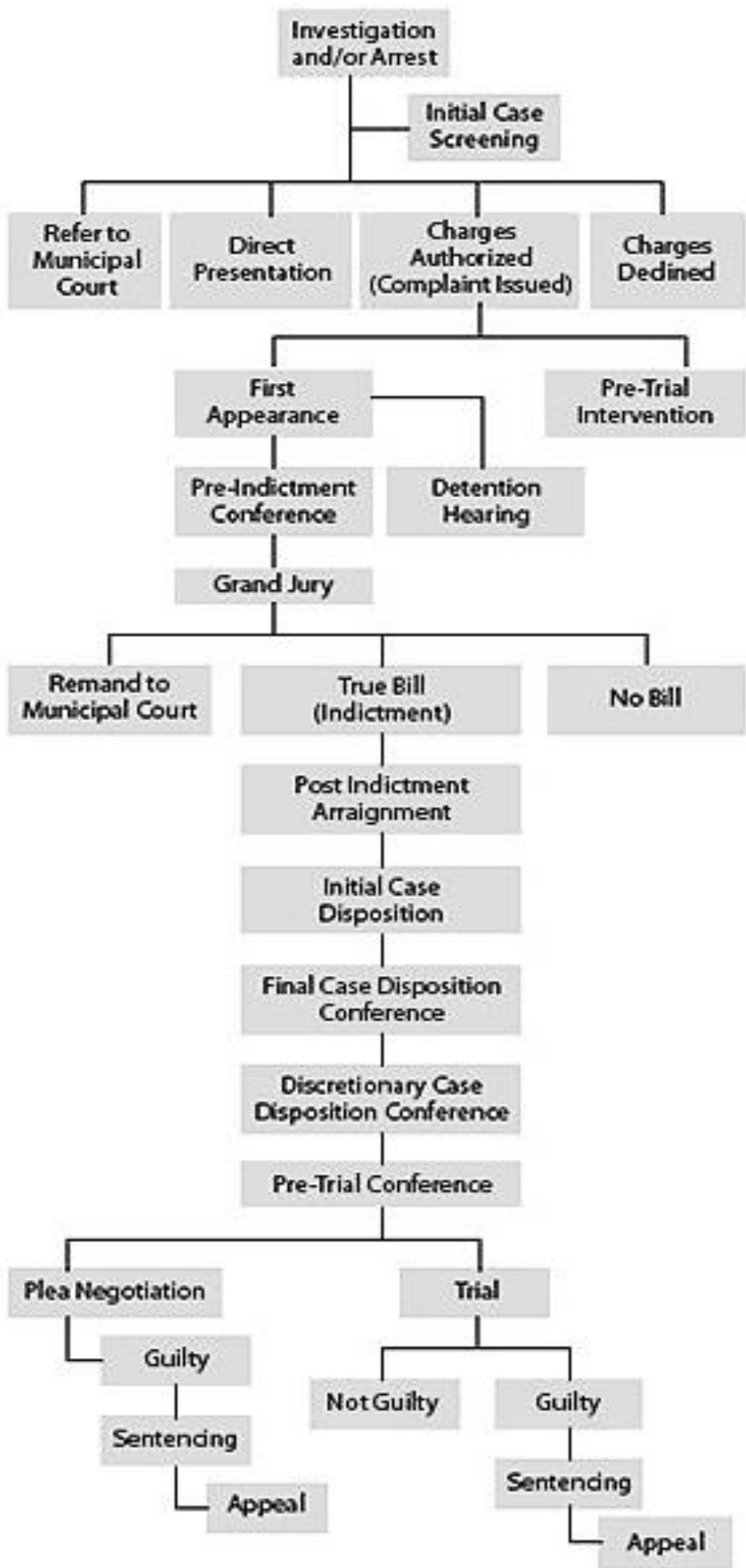
I, _____ am the parent or legal guardian of minor victim, _____ and am filing this complaint on their behalf. The minor victim is not present for the following reason(s): _____

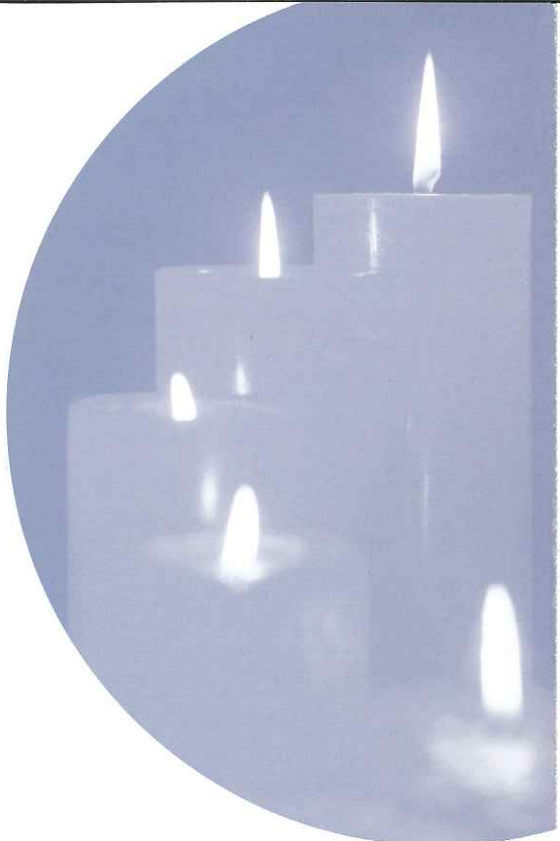
Certification by Plaintiff/Victim

I certify that the foregoing responses made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing responses made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

_____ Date _____ Signature

The Criminal Case Process





caring
support
help
dignity
respect



NEW JERSEY
VICTIMS OF CRIME
COMPENSATION OFFICE

We help put the pieces back together



our mission

The New Jersey Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) provides compensation to innocent victims of crime for some of the expenses they incur as a result of the crime. In carrying out its mission, the VCCO is mindful of the special needs of those victimized by crime and their right to be treated with fairness, compassion and respect.

crimes covered

If you are a victim of one of the following crimes you may be eligible for compensation by the VCCO:

- Aggravated assault
- Arson
- Bias crime
- Burglary**
- Domestic violence
- Human trafficking
- Indecent acts with children
- Kidnapping
- Lewd, indecent or obscene acts
- Manslaughter
- Motor vehicle offenses**
- Murder
- Robbery
- Sexual assault
- Stalking
- Terroristic threats
- Threats to do bodily harm

***Certain conditions apply*

eligibility

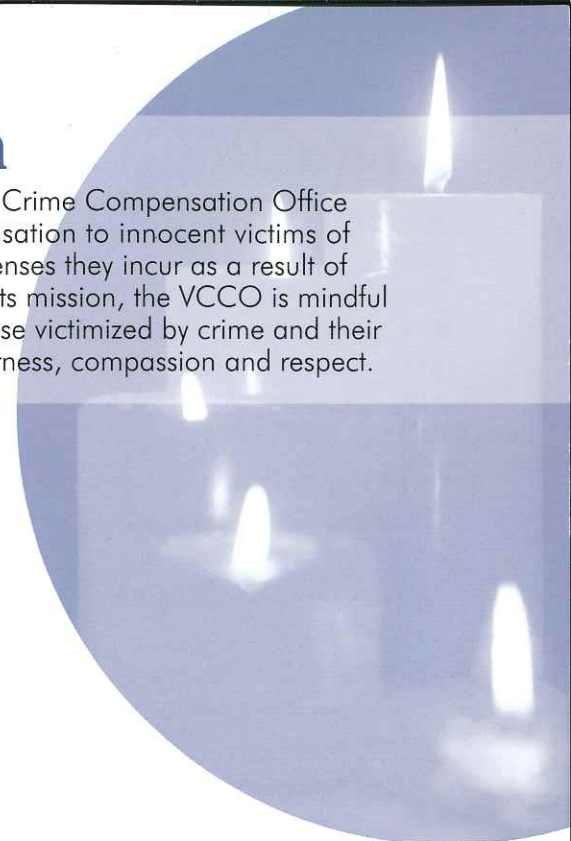
- The crime must have occurred in New Jersey or to a New Jersey resident victimized outside of the State
- The victim must have reported the crime to police within 9 months*
- The victim must cooperate with the investigation and prosecution of the crime
- The claim must be filed within 3 years of the date of the crime*
- Must be an innocent victim of a crime

** Consideration will be taken if good cause exists for delayed filing*

apply online at...

www.njvictims.org

Toll Free **877-658-2221**



If I qualify, what can you pay?

The expenses that can be paid include:

- Hospital, physician and medical expenses
- Mental health counseling up to \$20,000
- Loss of earnings up to \$600 per week
 - Temporary disability, not to exceed 24 months
 - Permanent disability, not to exceed 60 months
 - Secondary victim loss of earnings*
 - Bereavement, not to exceed two weeks*
 - Court attendance*
- Loss of financial support up to \$600 per week, not to exceed 48 months*
- Funeral expenses up to \$7,500
- Attorney fees
 - Victim's rights attorney fees up to \$200 per hour, not to exceed \$3,000
 - Representation with the VCCO claim up to 15% of award at \$200 per hour
- Relocation expenses up to \$3,000
- Crime scene clean up to \$4,000
- Domestic help/child care/day care services up to \$6,500

* Certain conditions apply.

VCCO is a payer of last resort

- Victim must first utilize and exhaust other resources including State benefits and insurance.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Crime Victims' Compensation?

The Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) reimburses innocent victims of a crime for some of the expenses they incur as a result of the crime.

Do all crime victims get paid?

No. The law sets forth the types of crimes that are covered under the VCCO. Further, if the victim participated in the crime or contributed to his/her injuries, he/she may be denied compensation.

Who is eligible to file?

Generally, the victim may always file for his/her own benefits. In other cases, including those involving a death, the following persons may apply for benefits:

- A family member, a dependent of the victim or the estate of the victim
- A person who paid for some of the services for the victim
- The guardian, guardian ad litem, estate representative, authorized agent of the victim or the victim's dependents

Can I be reimbursed for out of pocket expenses?

In some situations the victim or claimant can be reimbursed.

Can I still file a claim if the suspect has not been arrested or if the accused is acquitted at trial?

Yes. Compensation may be made whether or not a person is prosecuted or convicted.

Can the VCCO pay providers directly?

Yes. Once a claim is determined eligible, direct payment to providers is available.

I have received additional bills that were not considered in my initial award.

Can I still submit them?

Yes. Crime related bills are eligible for compensation up to ten years after the initial payment award has been made.

We help put the pieces back together



NJ OFFICE OF
VICTIMS OF
www.njvictim

cuidado
apoyo
dignidad
ayuda
respeto



NEW JERSEY

**OFICINA DE COMPENSACIÓN
PARA VÍCTIMAS DEL CRIMEN**

Los ayudamos a normalizar su vida



nuestra misión

La Oficina de Compensación para Víctimas del Crimen (Victims of Crimen Compensation Office VCCO) de Nueva Jersey compensa a inocentes víctimas de crímenes violentos de algunos gastos incurridos como resultado del crimen. Llevando a cabo su misión la VCCO reconoce las necesidades especiales de las víctimas y el derecho de ser tratadas con justicia, compasión y respeto.

crímenes cubiertos

Si ha sido víctima de uno de los crímenes siguientes puede ser elegible para recibir compensación de la VCCO:

- Acoso
- Actos indecentes con niños
- Actos lascivos, indecentes u obscenos
- Amenazas de causar daño corporal
- Amenazas terroristas
- Asalto agravante
- Asalto sexual
- Asesinato
- Atraco
- Crimen de prejuicio
- Delitos relacionados con vehículos**
- Homicidio involuntario
- Incendio provocado
- Robo**
- Secuestro
- Tráfico humano
- Violencia doméstica

***Se aplican ciertas condiciones.*

elegibilidad

- El crimen ocurrió en Nueva Jersey o un residente de Nueva Jersey fue victimizado fuera del estado
- La víctima tiene que haber reportado el crimen a la policía en un plazo de 9 meses*
- La víctima tiene que cooperar con la investigación y con el procesamiento del crimen
- La solicitud tiene que presentarse en un plazo de 3 años dentro de la fecha del crimen*
- Tiene que ser una víctima inocente del crimen

**Se tomará en consideración el retraso de la petición si existe causa justificada.*

aplique en línea en:

www.njvictims.org

Número de llamada gratuita

877-658-2221

Si califico, ¿qué pueden pagar?

Los gastos que se pueden pagar incluyen:

- Hospital, doctores y gastos médicos
- Asesoría de salud mental hasta \$20,000
- Pérdida de ingresos hasta de \$600 por semana.
 - Incapacidad temporal, que no exceda 24 meses
 - Incapacidad permanente, que no exceda 60 meses
 - Pérdida de ingresos de víctimas secundarias*
 - Duelo, que no exceda las dos semanas*
 - Comparecencia en la corte*
- Pérdida de apoyo financiero hasta de \$600 por semana, que no exceda 48 meses*
- Gastos de funeral hasta de \$7,500
- Honorarios de abogado
 - Honorarios de abogado de derechos de las víctimas hasta \$3,000, a \$200 por hora
 - Representación del reclamo ante VCCO de hasta el 15% de la compensación o \$200 por hora
- Gastos de reubicación hasta \$3,000
- Limpieza del lugar del crimen hasta \$4,000
- Servicios de ayuda doméstica, cuidado infantil, guardería infantil hasta \$6,500

* Se aplican ciertas condiciones.

VCCO es pagador de último recurso

- La víctima debe utilizar y agotar primero otros recursos incluso los beneficios del Estado y el seguro.

Preguntas frecuentes

¿Qué es la Oficina de Compensación para Víctimas del Crimen?

La Oficina de Compensación para Víctimas del Crimen (VCCO) compensa a las inocentes víctimas de un crimen violento de algunos gastos incurridos como resultado del crimen.

¿Se compensa a todas las víctimas del crimen?

No. La ley establece los tipos de crímenes que están cubiertos bajo VCCO. Más aún, si la víctima participó en el crimen o contribuyó a sus daños, se le puede negar la compensación.

¿Quién es elegible para solicitarla?

Por lo general la víctima siempre puede solicitar sus propios beneficios. En otros casos incluyendo aquellos envolviendo una muerte, las personas siguientes pueden solicitar los beneficios:

- Un miembro de la familia, un dependiente de la víctima o del patrimonio de ésta.
- Una persona que pagó por algunos de los servicios para la víctima
- El tutor, tutor legal, representante del patrimonio, agente autorizado de la víctima o dependientes de la víctima

¿Se me puede reembolsar por gastos de bolsillo?

En algunas situaciones, la víctima o solicitante puede ser reembolsado.

¿Puedo presentar un reclamo si el sospechoso no ha sido arrestado o si el acusado es absuelto en un juicio?

Sí. Se puede otorgar la compensación sin considerar si la persona es enjuiciada o es declarada culpable.

¿Puede la VCCO pagar directamente a los proveedores?

Sí. Una vez que se determine que el reclamo es elegible, se puede proveer pago directo.

He recibido facturas adicionales que no estaban consideradas en mi compensación inicial. ¿Puedo presentarlas?

Sí. Las facturas relacionadas con el crimen son elegibles para recibir compensación hasta diez años después de que se haya hecho el pago inicial de la adjudicación.



Los ayudamos a normalizar su vida

OFICINA DEL
OFICINA DE
www.njvictim

VICTIM/WITNESS SERVICES

- Provide information about the criminal justice system
- Provide case status information
- Inmate release notification
- Crisis intervention
- Assistance with Victims of Crime Compensation Office claims
- Restitution requests
- Assistance with victim impact and parole input statements
- Employer intervention
- Facilitate the return of personal property
- Social service referrals
- Court accompaniment
- Transportation
- Waiting/reception areas
- Referrals for victims at risk of sexually transmitted diseases

For additional information or assistance, contact the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy at:

609-989-6428

SERVICE AGENCIES

Our office has a comprehensive list of service agencies for referrals. Below is a brief list of service agencies which may be of assistance to crime victims and witnesses.

- **Statewide Sexual Assault Hotline.....1-800-601-7200**
- **Victims of Crime Compensation Office.....1-877-658-2221**
- **State of NJ Dept. of Children & Families.....1-877-543-7864**
- **PEI Kids.....1-609-695-3739**
- **VINE.....1-877-8463465**
- **Capital Health Emergency Mental Health Services.....609-396-HELP (4357)**
- **Catholic Charities.....1-609-394-3202**
- **Womanspace, Inc.,.....1-609-394-9000**
- **Domestic Violence Hotline.....1-800-572-7233**
- **The Addictions Hotline of NJ.....1-800-238-2333**
- **NAMI Mercer Hotline.....1-609-799-8994**
- **Henry J. Austin STD Testing.....1-609-278-5946**
- **HiTOPS Princeton STD Testing.....1-609-583-5155**
- **St. Francis Medical Center.....1-609-599-5000**

POLICE EMERGENCIES 9-1-1

LOCATION



The Robin B. Scheiner Child Advocacy Center of Mercer County can be reached at (609)989-6568 and is located at 1589 Lambertson Road in Trenton, New Jersey.

A GUIDE FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT



Mercer County
Prosecutor's Office
609-989-6351

Office of Victim-Witness
Advocacy

609-989-6428

mercervw@mercercounty.org

A MESSAGE TO CRIME VICTIMS AND WITNESSES FROM THE MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR

As the Prosecutor of Mercer County, I am responsible for administering the office which brings criminals to justice. The criminal justice system simply cannot succeed without the cooperation and sacrifice of you-the victim or witness of crime.

I recognize that a system which is insensitive to the needs of victims and witnesses or which ignores the price that victims and witnesses are forced to pay, cannot truly be called a justice system. Therefore, I am pleased to offer you the assistance of the Office of Victim/Witness Advocacy of the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office.

The staff of the Office of the Victim-Witness Advocacy is dedicated to assuring that you are treated with dignity and compassion, that you are kept informed about the status of your case, and that you are inconvenienced as little as possible. This pamphlet is intended to acquaint you with the various services which can be provided to you. Please do not hesitate to allow this office to help you.

On behalf of the entire law enforcement community in Mercer County, I commend your strength, resolution and cooperation in our joint effort to combat crime. In return, I pledge our patience, sensitivity, understanding, and assistance to you.

Sincerely,



Angelo J. Onofri
Mercer County Prosecutor

SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIM'S BILL OF RIGHTS

To have any allegation of sexual assault treated seriously; to be treated with dignity and compassion; and to be notified of existing medical, counseling, mental health, or other services available for victims of sexual assault, whether or not the crime is reported to law enforcement;

(2) To be free, to the extent consistent with the New Jersey or United States Constitution, from any suggestion that victims are responsible for the commission of crimes against them or any suggestion that victims were contributorily negligent or assumed the risk of being assaulted;

(3) To be free from any suggestion that victims are to report the crimes to be assured of any other guaranteed right and that victims should refrain from reporting crimes in order to avoid unwanted personal publicity;

(4) When applicable, to no-cost access to the services of a sexual assault response team comprised of: a certified forensic nurse examiner, a confidential sexual violence advocate, and a law enforcement official as provided in accordance with the Attorney General's Standards for Providing Services to Victims of Sexual Assault, and the choice to opt into or out of any of the team's services;

(5) To be informed of, and assisted in exercising, the right to be confidentially or anonymously tested for acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) or infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or any other related virus identified as a probable causative agent of AIDS; and to be informed of, and assisted in exercising, any rights that may be provided by law to compel and disclose the results of testing of a sexual assault suspect for communicable diseases;

SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIM'S BILL OF RIGHTS CONTINUED...

(6) To have forensic medical evidence, if collected, retained for a minimum of five years, and to receive information about the status of the evidence upon request;

(7) To choose whether to participate in any investigation of the assault;

(8) To reasonable efforts to provide treatment and interviews in a language in which the victim is fluent and the right to be given access to appropriate assistive devices to accommodate disabilities that the victim may have, whether temporary or long term;

(9) To information and assistance in accessing specialized mental health services; protection from further violence; other appropriate community or governmental services, including services provided by the Victims of Crime Compensation Office; and all other assistance available to crime victims under current law;

(10) To be apprised of the availability and process by which a court may order the taking of testimony from a victim via closed circuit television in accordance with section 1 of P.L.1985, c.126 (C.2A:84A-32.4); and

(11) To be apprised of the availability and process by which to seek protections through a temporary or final protective order under the "Sexual Assault Survivor Protection Act of 2015," P.L.2015, c.147 (C.2C:14-13 et seq.), if the victim believes that the victim is at risk for re-victimization or further harm by the perpetrator.

NJ Rape Care Programs

County	Center Information	Phone
<u>Atlantic County</u>	The Women's Center	609-601-9925
<u>Bergen County</u>	YWCA of Bergen County Rape Crisis Center	201-881-1750
<u>Burlington County</u>	CONTACT of Burlington County	856-234-5484
<u>Camden County</u>	SERV of Camden County	856-964-1990
<u>Cape May County</u>	Coalition Against Rape and Abuse	609-522-6489
<u>Cumberland County</u>	SERV of Cumberland County	856-696-2032
<u>Essex County</u>	Essex County Rape Crisis Center	973-746-0800
<u>Gloucester County</u>	SERV of Gloucester County	856-881-4034
<u>Hudson County</u>	Hudson County Rape Crisis Center	201-795-8741
<u>Hunterdon County</u>	SAFE in Hunterdon	908-788-7666
<u>Mercer County</u>	Womanspace	609-394-0136
<u>Middlesex County</u>	Middlesex County Rape Crisis Center	732-321-1189
<u>Monmouth County</u>	180 Turning Lives Around	732-264-4111
<u>Morris County</u>	Morris County Sexual Assault Center	973-971-4772
<u>Ocean County</u>	St. Francis Counseling Services	609-494-1554
<u>Passaic County</u>	Passaic County Women's Center	973-881-0725
<u>Salem County</u>	Salem County Women's Services	856-935-8012
<u>Somerset County</u>	Sexual Assault Support Services	908-526-2335
<u>Sussex County</u>	DASI – Sexual Assault Program	973-875-1211
<u>Union County</u>	Union County Rape Crisis Center	908-233-7273
<u>Warren County</u>	Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Crisis Center	908-453-4121
<u>Rutgers University</u>	Office for Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance	732-932-1181

What is a Mental Health Emergency?

A mental health emergency is a sudden severe emotional disturbance with one or more of the following:

- Risk of harm to self (suicidal), others (homicidal), or property
- Out of touch with reality; for example, seeing or hearing things that no one else sees or hears, having conversations with themselves, or exhibiting bizarre behavior
- Suddenly losing interest in school, friends, family, hobbies, personal hygiene, etc.
- Extreme nervousness, confusion, or sadness that begins suddenly
- Severe arguments or fights within the family
- Uncontrollable behavior that is upsetting everyone in the home, school, or neighborhood
- Sudden changes in mood, behavior, or thinking

Suicide Warning Signs

- Previous suicide attempts
- Statements expressing a wish to die
- Change in behavior which is out of character
- Changes in eating/sleeping patterns
- Giving away personal possessions
- Making final arrangements
- Withdrawal from friends and family
- Drug/alcohol involvement
- Dangerous and self-destructive behavior

Capital Health
Regional Medical Center
750 Brunswick Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08638

www.capitalhealth.org

Phone:

609-396-HELP (4357)

609-394-6086

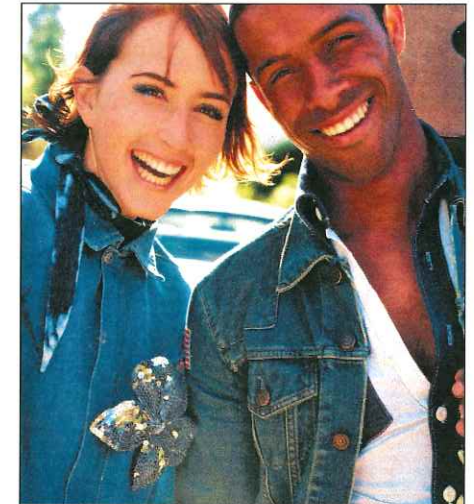
**Outstanding Care.
Exceptional Services.**



**Emergency Mental
Health Services**

**Psychiatric
Screening Center**

A Service of Capital Health



Phone:

609-396-HELP (4357)

609-394-6086

Emergency Mental Health Services

Crisis services responds to mental health emergencies. By definition, emergencies require more immediate attention than if a client could wait for an appointment at a clinic or a private office.

The primary goal of crisis services is a rapid and thorough assessment of the degree and kind of mental health interventions that are required to stabilize a mental health emergency and let problem solving begin.

The assessment process is comprehensive including the social, economic, familial, medical, and psychological factors which play a part in psychiatric emergencies. Clinicians are trained to evaluate children, adults, and the elderly.

The Psychiatric Screening Center, located at Capital Health Regional Medical Center, responds to psychiatric emergencies for Mercer County, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Services may be accessed through On-Site Screening and Mobile Outreach.



On-Site Services

The emergency walk-in component of our program provides individuals with the ability to request an assessment by a Psychiatric Clinician at the time of their crisis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Individuals may walk into the Capital Health Emergency Room and request emergency mental health services. A brief medical screening will be provided by the medical doctor, after which, patients will be transferred to the Screening Center, where the following will occur:

- Emergency screening assessment by a Mental Health Clinician
- Nursing assessment when required
- Evaluation by the Psychiatrist when required
- Referral for In-Patient hospitalization when appropriate
- Referral for Out-Patient services when appropriate
- Holding bed utilized for medication, observation, and stabilization, if required

Mobile Outreach Services

This emergency intervention offers mobile off-site services to adults and their families at home or at the site of the crisis. Individuals may request emergency mental health services at the time of their crisis at any verifiable location within Mercer County. Services are offered in the following:

- Crisis prevention: pre-crisis evaluation
- Mobile off-site crisis intervention and evaluation services
- Short-term community based stabilization and follow-up care
- Referral to appropriate mental health services for continued care, drug/alcohol treatment, individual counseling, family therapy, psychiatric hospitalization, civil commitment

All clinical services available:

24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Serving residents of
Mercer County.**

24 Hour Crisis Hotline

609-396-HELP (4357)

Screening Center/Mobile Outreach

609-394-6086

DEDICATED AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Our licensed, professional staff does a tremendous amount of outreach and collaboration with other DCP&P programs to ensure comprehensive care. Staff is willing to accompany clients as necessary and do whatever it takes to ensure their clients regain the strength and ability to live a violence-free life.

“You have touched my life, and the lives of my children, and my family. The happiness, love, and kindness you have given shall remain. You were our safety net, holding us in the palm of your hand during those dark, bleak days. You have made us strong, and we are ready to venture out on our own.”

— from a client to her Family Growth Therapist

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton **Family Growth Program of Mercer County**

1239 Parkway Avenue

Suite 102

Ewing, New Jersey 08628

Phone: 609-394-5157

Fax: 609-394-3010

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
DIOCESE OF TRENTON
HOPE
starts here

Access, Help and Information: 800-360-7711

CatholicCharitiesTrenton.org



Catholic Charities
DIOCESE OF TRENTON

FAMILY GROWTH PROGRAM

RESTORING STRENGTH AND WELL-BEING
TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY
VIOLENCE AND ABUSE.

THE CYCLE OF ABUSE

The consequences of abuse and the resulting trauma are far-reaching – anger, guilt, self-loathing, loss of self-esteem. Without therapy, abuse victims are likely to lead difficult lives – many abused children have trouble controlling their emotions, forming stable relationships, and leading productive lives within the community. Too easily, abuse travels from one generation to the next.

BREAKING THE CYCLE

The results of Family Growth's comprehensive therapy and service delivery are clear. Records show that in 85 percent of the families it serves, violent patterns of behavior have stopped. Young victims are growing up to be productive members of society, with healthy families of their own. The cycle of abuse stops at Family Growth.

FAMILY GROWTH STRATEGY

Specialized intervention for physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children, severe neglect of children, incest, and spouse abuse was the goal of Family Growth when it began in 1975. These services continue through today and they have evolved to incorporate trauma-informed treatment practices.

Family Growth now offers parenting classes and group sessions for male perpetrators of domestic violence and individual sessions for female perpetrators of domestic violence. Since family violence harms all in the family, services are extended to siblings, parents, and close relatives.

TREATMENT

Following an assessment by the Family Growth staff, clients receive counseling and/or psychiatric consultation depending on their needs. Therapists are trained in individual, couple, family, and group counseling, with an emphasis on trauma work and reducing abuse and

neglect. All therapists are trained in Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy as well as other trauma treatment modalities. Family members may begin with any of these modalities and move into other kinds of treatment, as appropriate. Medication monitoring is provided as needed. Consistent with our trauma approach we take a holistic view of the client's healing process. Therapists supplement regular therapy sessions with life-skills services and referrals in such areas as [schooling](#), [housing](#), [employment](#) and [financial management](#). Following treatment, Family Growth remains available for assistance. Bilingual staff is available.

CLIENTS AND FEES

All are served at Family Growth regardless of ethnic, religious, or socioeconomic backgrounds. Referrals are made primarily through the NJ Division of Child Protection and Permanency or courts. Referrals can also be made for any child/adolescent, age 3–18, who has NJ Medicaid by calling Catholic Charities Access Center. Every effort is made to assist families regardless of ability to pay.



Other Useful Agency
Telephone Numbers

Mercer County Prosecutor's Office

Receptionist (609) 989-6351

Special Victims Unit

Receptionist (609) 989-6568

Office of Victim/Witness Advocacy

(609) 989-6428

**Department of Children & Families
Division of Child Protection and
Permanency (Formerly DYFS)
Hotline—24 hours a day**

1-877-652-2873

PEI KIDS

(609) 695-3739

Family Growth Program

(609) 394-5157

**Dorothy B. Hersh
Regional Child Protection Center**

(732) 448-1000
(For Appointments)
Toll Free 1-888-491-3841
After Hours (732) 296-1521



**Mercer County
Prosecutor's Office
Robin H Scheiner
Child Advocacy Center**

Angelo J. Onofri
Mercer County Prosecutor

Stephanie A. Katz
First Assistant Prosecutor

Timothy Ward
Assistant Prosecutor, Chief
Special Victims Unit



Our Children, Our Future

**Mercer County
Prosecutor's Office
Robin H Scheiner
Child Advocacy Center**

1589 Lambertson Road
Trenton, New Jersey

Role of the MDT ?

The MDT is responsible for tracking and reviewing the initial and follow-up investigation of all child physical and sexual abuse cases. The MDT conducts case review with the following agencies:

Mercer County Prosecutor's

Special Victims Unit investigates and prosecutes child physical and sexual abuse cases through the criminal justice system.

Division of Child Protection and Permanency

Investigates reports of child physical and sexual abuse, as well as neglect and takes immediate action in order to ensure the safety and welfare of the child.

Dorothy B. Hersh Regional Child Protection Center (CPC)

The CPC is a state-designated child protection center that provides crisis intervention, child abuse assessments and referrals to community resources.

Prevention Education Inc. (PEI Kids)

PEI Kids works with the child, family and caregiver to provide prevention, education, and intervention programs regarding personal safety, sexual abuse and the over-all well-being of the child.

Office of Victim Witness Advocacy

Provides services and support to victims and witnesses throughout the criminal process.

Family Growth Program Of Catholic Charities

Offers services to children and parents, specializing in child abuse and violence.

Multidisciplinary Team

What Is the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)?

Our MDT team members are drawn from professionals in the fields of law enforcement (detectives and prosecutors), the Division of Child Protection and Permanency, medical and mental health practitioners, the Forensic Nurse Examiner/ Sexual Assault Response Team (FNE/SART) Coordinator, Victim-Witness Advocates, and the MDT Coordinator. The MDT meets monthly and promotes the effective and sensitive investigation of child physical and sexual abuse.

The MDT members work together to protect the child, to prevent him/her from being re-victimized, and to hold the offender accountable.

Whom does the MDT Serve?

The MDT is designed to provide access to multiple departments and agencies thereby maximizing the available information to all disciplines involved in the process. The MDT also provides support, information and referrals to children and their families as needed.

How Can the MDT Help?

The MDT provides supervision beginning with the initiation of a criminal or civil investigation, continuing through the evaluation and treatment of the child, and culminating with the final resolution of the case.

Child Advocacy Center

Referrals for these services can be made by the MDT Coordinator or team members.

The Child Advocacy Center is located at 1589 Lambertson Road, Trenton, NJ. It is a safe, comfortable place where children can be interviewed in a friendly atmosphere. The Center includes: a waiting area, children's playroom, three interview rooms, a medical room, a counseling room, and a conference room.

The Mission of the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office Child Advocacy Center is three-fold: (1) to promote the effective investigation and successful prosecution of child physical and sexual abuse cases; (2) to provide victims and their families with guidance and support throughout the investigation and prosecution of their cases; and (3) to educate the community about the prevention and prosecution of child abuse and sexual assault cases. Child interviews are conducted by specially trained law enforcement officers and may be videotaped and made available to other members of the Multi-disciplinary Team (MDT), to avoid multiple interviews.

While at the Center, referrals to the following services can be provided:

- Crisis Intervention
- Counseling Referrals
- Medical Services
- Victim Advocacy

>> Rapid HIV Testing

Rapid Testing Sites in Mercer County

The sites currently offering an FDA-approved HIV rapid test are listed below:

TRENTON

- **Capitol Health – Helene Fuld Campus - Emergency Department**
(for Emergency Department patients only)
705 Brunswick Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08618 (609) 278-5946
- **City of Trenton STD Clinic**
218 North Broad Street, Trenton, NJ 08608 (609) 989-3242, ext 4
- **Henry J. Austin Health Center**
321 N. Warren Street, Trenton, NJ 08618 (609) 278-5946
- **New Horizon Treatment Center**
4 132 Perry Street, Trenton, NJ 08618 (609) 394-8988
- **Planned Parenthood of Mercer – Trenton**
437 East State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608 (609) 964-7952
- **St. Francis Medical Center - Emergency Department**
(for Emergency Department patients only)
601 Hamilton Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08629 609-599-5263
- **St. Francis Medical Center – Infectious Disease Center (EIP Site)**
601 Hamilton Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08629 (609) 599-5560

HAMILTON

- **Planned Parenthood of Mercer – Hamilton**
2279 Rt. 33, Golden Crest Corp. Ctr. Suite 510, Hamilton, NJ 08690 (609) 689-4864
- **Hamilton Township Department STD/HIV Clinic**
2100 Greenwood Avenue, Hamilton, NJ 08609 (609) 890-3647

NAMI Mercer is here for you

We are a volunteer-driven, non-profit organization with a mission to improve the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness through education, support, outreach and advocacy. NAMI Mercer, founded 1984, is New Jersey's largest affiliate of the NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

No one should have to face mental illness alone. With NAMI Mercer, no one does.



Support NAMI Mercer

Join. Please become a member and receive education and support on mental health topics that promote recovery. Receive up-to-date information on policy, research, and news.

Volunteer. Please contribute your time and talents. With our small staff, we rely on volunteers for program leadership, advocacy, office work, events, and communications.

Donate. Please contribute. There is no charge for most of NAMI Mercer's programs. We rely on the generous gifts of the community. One hundred percent of your contribution goes to support our free programs and is tax deductible.

Call NAMI Mercer. 609-799-8994

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Please indicate amount enclosed:

Annual Family Membership (\$35) _____

Open Door Membership (\$3) _____

(limited income)

Donation (any amount) _____

I would like to volunteer.

MAIL TO: NAMI MERCER
3371 Brunswick Pike, #124
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Visit www.namimercer.org to join or donate.



*If you or someone
you love is
affected by mental
illness...*



*you are not
alone.*

Education

NAMI Mercer offers free, nationally developed classes and special workshops. As a family member or caregiver, you can learn about mental illness, treatment, and recovery from peer educators who have extensive personal experience. Recovering adults can learn essential skills for solving problems and coping with symptoms. NAMI Mercer hosts monthly public education meetings and workshops in which experts present the latest research, and advocates inform people about important policy issues. Mental health presentations are offered for school professionals and parents.

NAMI Mercer holds an annual "Harvest of Hope" wellness conference each October. Our resource library, specializing in books on mental illness and recovery topics, is available for NAMI Mercer members.

Mutual Support

NAMI Mercer brings you together with others who face mental illness. We provide a weekday Helpline to offer support and resources for any callers. Peer support groups are available for individuals or family members who are affected by mental illness. Join one of NAMI Mercer's three social groups to make friends and enjoy activities that support wellness. We can also connect you and your family with free professional support through our special partnership with Intensive Family Support Services.

Outreach and Advocacy

NAMI Mercer is dedicated to improving the lives and fostering the dignity of all Mercer County individuals and families affected by mental illness, regardless of age, sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation or socio-economic status. We have a strong commitment to reaching low-income and minority individuals and families in our community. Through education and awareness programs in schools, congregations, businesses, and other organizations, NAMI fights stigma, myths and fears about mental illness and fosters understanding and respect.

NAMI Mercer advocates for local, state and national policies that promote optimal conditions for recovery. Local initiatives include monitoring state psychiatric hospitals, legislative advocacy, decriminalization of mental illness, crisis intervention training for law enforcement personnel, and monitoring of treatment transitions.

We Offer Hope

NAMI Mercer believes in recovery. Many of our members and volunteers are courageous survivors of mental illness who lead satisfying and productive lives. All of NAMI Mercer's programs and activities reflect our positive, recovery-oriented philosophy.

Programs and Services

- **Helpline:** a telephone support, information and referral service staffed by empathetic, trained volunteers.
- **Family-to-Family:** a 12-week course for family members of adults with mental illness.
- **NAMI Basics:** a 6-class course on the fundamentals of caring for yourself and your child with behavioral challenges.
- **Education Programs:** monthly public education meetings and Harvest of Hope conference.
- **Parents and Teachers as Allies:** mental health education program for school personnel and parents.
- **Wellness and Recovery Action Plan (WRAP®):** an 8-session class for consumers to create a recovery plan.
- **NAMI Connection:** a peer-led recovery support group for people with mental illness.
- **Just Friends, Becoming Friends & Just Kids:** social groups run by peers and volunteers.
- **Intensive Family Support Services:** in collaboration with Greater Trenton Behavioral HealthCare, support groups and individual counseling provided by professionals for family members of adults with mental illness.
- **In Our Own Voice:** an interactive multimedia presentation by consumers that offers hope and combats stigma.

Contact Us

Administrative Hours: Mon. — Fri., 9am-5pm

Address: 231 Lawrence Rd., Lawrence, NJ 08648

Phone: 609-695-3739 **Fax:** 609-695-1116

Email: information@peikids.org

Website: www.peikids.org

Testimonials

“With the help and counseling from (PEI Kids’) staff, my children were able to move forward. But what really helped me was group counseling . . . and listening to other parents that had similar experiences. With the help of the team, my daughter was able to testify against her father in court. He is now in prison and serving a 6 year sentence. — Mother of a 14-year-old in the Crisis Intervention Counseling program

“My daughter compared her visits with PEI Kids’ counselors with ‘going on vacation.’ The counselors helped her to fully realize that the sexual abuse was not her fault, and that the perpetrator was where he belonged...in jail.” — Father of an 8-year-old in the Crisis Intervention Counseling program

Mission

PEI Kids is dedicated to promoting and maintaining a safe environment for all children.

PEI Kids works with the child, family, and caregiver to provide prevention, intervention, and advocacy programs relating to personal safety, sexual abuse, and the overall well-being of the child.

PEI Kids Services

Prevention

- School-based prevention education focused on child assault, child sexual abuse, and bullying prevention
- Community-based outreach and education to teach adults in preventing child sexual abuse

Intervention

- Counseling and support groups for child victims of sexual abuse and non-offending family members
- Counseling for children, 12 years of age and under, with sexual behavior problems
- Juvenile offender and anger management services for at-risk youth

Support Services

- Family transportation and visitation services for children in foster care and their families



231 Lawrence Road · Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
609-695-3739 Fax: 609-695-1116
www.peikids.org

Crisis Intervention for Child Victims of Sexual Abuse



*A safe space and
proven practices to
help children and
their families heal*



Program Overview

PEI Kids' *Crisis Intervention for Child Victims of Sexual Abuse* program provides immediate, professional counseling for child victims of sexual abuse, ages 3-18, and their non-offending, supportive family members. The aim of the program is to mitigate the effects of sexual abuse on child victims, enable parents to identify attitudes/parenting styles supportive of the counseling process, support healing and healthy family functioning, and reduce the risk of future victimization.

Our counseling program provides 12 weeks of Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) for victims and their families immediately following the disclosure of the abuse. Occasionally, extended counseling is provided for children with ongoing or unresolved issues or for children with special needs.

Our *Support Groups for Child Victims and Their Families* help clients and family members heal and return to a level of normalcy through education and peer support. Each support group is led by a member of PEI Kids' professional, licensed counseling staff. PEI Kids has distinct support groups—for parents/caregivers, for adolescent victims, for siblings, and for mothers and daughters.

Funding for the *Crisis Intervention for Child Victims of Sexual Abuse* counseling program is provided in part through a grant from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Grant Program.

Funding for Support Groups for Child Victims and Their Families is provided in part through a grant from The Fund for Women and Girls of the Princeton Area Community Foundation.

Service Goals

Crisis Counseling for Child Victims of Sexual Abuse:

- Provides immediate counseling for child victims of sexual abuse
- Teaches children to modify sexually inappropriate behavior
- Provides tools to help victims and family members deal with the trauma and behaviors associated with child sexual abuse
- Connects children and families with additional community resources as needed
- Provides children and families with transportation, and court preparation and accompaniment upon request

Support Groups for Child Victims and their Families:

- Enhances intergenerational communication, empathy and bonding
- Improves positive body awareness, self-confidence and self-acceptance
- Increases assertiveness skills and knowledge of healthy boundaries
- Improves caregiver understanding of child behavior
- Increases comfort level between child and caregiver when discussing healthy sexuality
- Provides childcare for young siblings to make it easier for families to participate



Service Results

For child victims of sexual abuse, the program:

- Reduces symptoms of trauma such as nightmares, anxiety, promiscuity, flashbacks, depression, explosive temper, oppositional defiant behavior, etc.
- Enhances positive coping skills
- Improves self-esteem and healthy functioning
- Improves ability to identify, label, and express feelings

For parents/caregivers, the program:

- Improves awareness of behavior exhibited by sexually abused children and/or children with sexual behavior problems
- Enhances understanding of attitudes and parenting styles supportive of the counseling process to facilitate healing
- Provides satisfaction with program effects on their child
- Increases comfort level when talking about sex and sexuality with their children
- Provides a source of ongoing and additional support

Eligibility

We respond to referrals regarding child sexual abuse in less than 48 hours. Our services are free and are available for male and female victims, ages 3-18, and non-offending family members. Our facility is handicap-accessible, and services are available in English and Spanish.

Póngase en contacto con nosotros

Horas administrativas: Lunes a viernes, 9am-5pm

Dirección: 231 Lawrence Rd., Lawrence, NJ 08648

Teléfono : 609-695-3739 **Fax:** 609-695-1116

Email: information@peikids.org

Sitio web: www.peikids.org

Homenajes

“Con la ayuda y el consejo del personal de PEI Kids, mis hijos pudieron moverse adelante. Pero lo que me ayudó más era el consejo grupo... y escuchar a otros padres que tuvieron experiencias similares. Con la ayuda del equipo, mi hija pudo testificar contra su padre en el tribunal. Ahora él está en el cárcel y sirviendo una sentencia de 6 años.” – la madre de una adolescente de 14 años que está en el programa de *Intervención crisis*

“Mi hija comparó sus visitas con las consejeras de PEI Kids con ‘ir de vacaciones.’ Los consejeros la ayudaron entender completamente que el abuso sexual no era su culpa, y que el presunto autor ya estuvo donde debería de estar – en la cárcel.” – padre de una niña de 8 años en el programa *Intervención*

Nuestra misión

PEI Kids está dedicado a promover y mantener un ambiente seguro para todos los niños. PEI Kids trabaja con el niño, la familia, y cuidadores para proveer prevención, intervención, y programas de defensa relacionados al seguro personal, el abuso sexual, y el bienestar total del niño.

Servicios de PEI Kids

La prevención

- Educación prevenida basada en la escuela y fijada en el abuso de niños, el abuso sexual de niños, y la prevención de bullying
- Alcance comunitario y educación para prevenir el abuso sexual de niños

Intervención

- Grupos de consejo y apoyo para víctimas niños del abuso sexual y los miembros de su familia que no son culpables
- Consejo para niño, de 12 años y menores, con problemas de comportamiento sexual
- Servicios para infractores juveniles y cómo manejar el enojo para jóvenes en-riesgo

Servicios de apoyo

- Transportación para familia y servicios de visita para niños en cuidado adoptivo y sus familias



231 Lawrence Road · Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

609-695-3739 Fax: 609-695-1116

www.peikids.org

Intervención crisis para niños víctimas del abuso sexual



Un lugar seguro y prácticas probadas para ayudar sanar a niños y a sus familias



La descripción general del programa

El programa de *Intervención crisis para niños víctimas del abuso sexual* de PEI Kids provee consejo inmediato y profesional para niños víctimas del abuso sexual, de edades 3 a 18, y a los miembros de su familia que dan apoyo y que no son culpables. La meta del programa es mitigar los efectos del abuso sexual en niños víctimas, permitir a padres identificar los actitudes y estilos de apoyo del proceso del consejo, educar a padres en el comportamiento exhibido por niños que están abusados sexualmente, y reducir el riesgo de victimización en el futuro.

Nuestro programa provee 12 semanas de terapia cognitiva conductual, uno a uno, centrada en el trauma para víctimas y su familia inmediatamente después de la revelación del abuso. Ocasionalmente, se provee consejo extendido a niños con asuntos en curso o sin resolver.

Nuestro *Grupo de apoyo para niños víctimas y sus familias* ayuda a clientes y a miembros de su familia cicatrizar y regresar a un nivel de normalidad por educación y apoyo de sus iguales. Cada grupo de apoyo está guiado por un miembro del personal consejero profesional y licenciado. PEI Kids tiene cuatro grupos de apoyo – para padres/cuidadores, para víctimas adolescentes, para hermanos, y para niños víctimas.

Las metas de servicio

Consejo crisis para niños víctimas del abuso sexual:

- Provee consejo inmediatamente para niños víctimas del abuso sexual
- Enseñar a niños modificar comportamiento inapropiado sexual
- Provee habilidades para ayudar a los víctimas y miembros de su familia tratar con el trauma y comportamiento asociado con el abuso sexual
- Conectar a niños y a familias con recursos adicionales comunitarios si se necesita
- Proveer a niños y a familias con transportación, y preparación y acompañamiento tribunal, a petición

Grupos de apoyo para niños víctimas y sus familias:

- Mejorar comunicación intergeneracional, empatía y vínculos familiares
- Mejorar conciencia positiva del cuerpo y aceptación de sí mismo
- Aumentar habilidades de asertividad y conocimiento de límites saludables
- Mejorar comprensión del comportamiento de niños para cuidadores
- Aumentar el nivel de comodidad entre el niño y el cuidador mientras hablar del sexo y la sexualidad
- Incluye cuidado de hermanos menores para que sea más fácil asistir para las familias



Los resultados de servicio

Para niños víctimas del abuso sexual:

- Reducir síntomas del trauma asociados con el abuso sexual, como pesadillas, la ansiedad, la promiscuidad, escenas retrospectivas (flashbacks), la depresión, temperamento explosivo, trastorno de oposición desafiante, etc.
- Mejorar habilidades de afrontamiento
- Mejorar auto-estima
- Ayudar con identificar, calificar, y expresar sentimientos sobre su trauma

Para padres/cuidadores:

- Conciencia aumentada de comportamiento exhibido por niños abusados sexualmente y/o niños con problemas de comportamiento sexual
- Mejor comprensión, actitudes, y los estilos de apoyo del proceso del consejo para padres
- Satisfacción con los efectos del programa en su hijo
- Un nivel de comodidad en hablar del sexo y de la sexualidad con niños
- Comodidad en regresar a PEI Kids para apoyo adicional, si se necesita

La elegibilidad

Nosotros respondemos a remisiones sobre el abuso sexual de niños entre 48 horas. Nuestros servicios son gratis y están disponibles para víctimas de ambos sexos, edades 3 a 18, y los miembros de su familia que no son culpables. Nuestra facilidad está accesible por las personas discapacidades. Los servicios están disponibles en inglés y español.

SART Services include:

- Information about reporting
- A forensic medical evaluation to detect injuries and provide treatment.
- Comprehensive forensic evidence collection.
- Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) and Pregnancy evaluation and treatment.
- Crisis intervention and support.
- Information about victim services, including counseling.
- Medical, legal and court accompaniments.
- SART services are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year

What is the Cost of SART Services?

- **SART Services are FREE.**
- If you require treatment for injuries, you or your medical insurance will be billed for this. The Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) may be able to assist you with the costs of medical care, counseling and other expenses, if you are reporting the assault to police.
- For more information about VCCO and other Victim Services, contact the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office of Victim/Witness Advocacy at 609-989-6428.

When is the SART Activated?

The SART will be activated, **at the victim's request**, if:

- the sexual assault occurred within the last 5 days.
- **and** the victim consents for a Forensic Medical Exam

How is the SART Activated?

Victims can request SART Services:

- By calling **609-394-9000**, the 24-hour Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Hotline at Womanspace, **or**
- By calling **911** or the Police, **or**
- By going directly to the **Emergency Department** of a participating SART Hospital. In Mercer County, these are:
 - **Capital Health Regional Trauma Center**
 - **Capital Health @ Hopewell Pediatric Emergency Services**
 - **RWJ @ Hamilton Hospital**
 - **St Francis Medical Center**

For more information on SART services, reporting and treatment options contact the SART Coordinator@ 609.278.4880 or to speak with a crisis counselor, contact Womanspace through their 24-hour Hotline at 609-394-9000.

ALL CALLS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

MERCER COUNTY

SEXUAL

ASSAULT

RESPONSE

TEAM

**24-HOUR INFORMATION
HOTLINE#: 609-394-9000**

Funded in part by the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice, State Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy, Federal Victims of Crime Act Assistance Funds and the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office.

What is Sexual Assault?

Under New Jersey law, sexual assault includes any form of unwanted or involuntary touching or penetration of intimate body parts, by the same or opposite sex. This can include being forced to touch someone else.

“Unwanted or involuntary” means sexual contact without the consent of the victim, including the use of threats, intimidation, coercion or physical force. It also includes victims who are unable to give consent, because of their age or because they are physically helpless or mentally incapacitated.

Sexual offenders are often someone known to the victim, such as a friend, acquaintance, date, spouse or family member. The terms “date rape” or “acquaintance rape” are often used to describe this association, but this does not imply a less serious form of sexual assault. As in sexual assault by a stranger, the degree of force used can vary from coercion, intimidation or threats to deadly force.

For more information on sexual assault contact:

**The New Jersey Coalition
Against Sexual Assault**
(NJ-CASA) at 1-800-601-7200
or visit their website at
www.njcasa.org.

If You Have Been Sexually Assaulted:

- Get to a safe place.
- Get immediate medical attention for possible injuries, sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy.
- Don't bathe, shower, douche, change your clothes, eat, drink, smoke or urinate, if possible.
- Contact your local rape crisis program for support and information. In Mercer County, call 609-394-9000.

As a Survivor of Sexual Assault you have the Right:

- To be treated with respect and dignity.
- To be assured of confidentiality.
- To be allowed freedom of choice concerning the decisions that affect your life.
- To be made aware of all the medical, legal and social service options available.
- To be made aware of and to receive medical and counseling services whether or not the crime is reported to the police.
- To be treated without prejudice regarding race, class, life-style, age or occupation.

What is the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)?

The Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) is made up of specially trained individuals, who at the victim's request, respond together to help the victim through the aftermath of a sexual assault. The SART uses a team approach in providing compassionate, comprehensive medical care, emotional support, information, assistance, evidence collection and investigation of the incident.

The Members of the SART Include.

- **A Forensic Nurse Examiner (FNE):** A Registered Professional Nurse (RN) with specialized training in caring for and examining sexual assault patients. The FNE provides comprehensive and sensitive medical care, while ensuring that forensic evidence is properly collected in a timely manner.
- **A Law Enforcement Officer:** With specialized training in the area of sexual assault investigation and working with sexual assault victims.
- **A Rape Care Advocate:** With specialized training in the area of sexual assault. The Advocate provides emotional support for victims and their significant others, information about reporting, treatment and counseling options and is available to accompany the victim during medical, legal and court procedures. All services of the rape care advocate are free, confidential, and available regardless of whether or not the victim is reporting the assault.

SEXUAL ASSAULT...

- *Is a crime of violence in which the goal is to overpower, intimidate and degrade the victim*
- *Can happen to anyone regardless of age, race, class or gender*
- *Is not provoked by a person's appearance or style of dress*
- *Is most often perpetrated by a person who is known to the victim*

Sexual violence is any form of unwanted, unwelcome or coercive sexual contact. The crime of sexual violence exists in a continuum from sexual harassment to rape and can include anything from stalking to inappropriate touching to penetration. It can also include sexual stalking on the internet.

Rape crisis centers in New Jersey receive about 30,000 calls each year from victims of assault, their significant others, family members and friends who want to know how to help.



Founded in 1977 to serve Mercer County women in crisis, Womanspace has been meeting the needs of victims of domestic violence and their families for 25 years. Womanspace is now providing Sexual Assault Support Services in Mercer County.

WOMANSPACE, INC.

Administrative Offices
1212 Stuyvesant Avenue
Trenton, New Jersey 08618
609-394-0136
fax: 609-396-1093

Counseling & Support
1860 Brunswick Avenue
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
609-394-2532
fax: 609-394-5417

www.womanspace.org

*Funding is provided by the NJ Division on Women,
the NJ State Division of Criminal Justice,
The United Way of Greater Mercer County,
and private contributions.*

Sexual Assault Support Services

**24-Hour Crisis &
Information Hotline**

In Mercer County

☎ 609-394-9000

**TTY
Spanish**



IT STARTS HERE.

SEXUAL ASSAULT SUPPORT SERVICES

Womanspace Sexual Assault Services provides support and guidance to victims of sexual assault, abuse and rape. Victims and their significant others are assisted in understanding the affect of the trauma and how to begin the healing process.

Services

- 24-hour crisis hotline staffed by trained professionals with access to Spanish speaking counselors and TTY
- Accompaniment to the hospital, police department and court
- Counseling for victims and significant others
- Support groups
- Information and referral
- Assistance with application to the Victims of Crime Compensation Board



COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Sexual Assault Support Services works to increase community awareness of sexual assault, abuse and rape. Trained staff members and volunteers are available to give presentations for schools, colleges, organizations, businesses, and social service agencies. Training for professionals is also available.

Advocates

Trained advocates provide support to victims during the initial crisis by accompaniment at the hospital and to the police department. Advocates may also be available to attend legal proceedings and follow-up medical procedures to further assist victims.

If you are sexually assaulted...

- Go to a safe place
- If possible, do not bathe, shower, urinate, change clothing, eat, drink or smoke
- Get immediate medical attention for possible injuries, sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy
- Consider calling the police
- Call Womanspace **609-394-9000**, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for support and information

COMMON FEELINGS AFTER ASSAULT

Physical

- Physical pain and body aches
- Insomnia, difficulty staying asleep or nightmares
- Loss of appetite, stomach pains or nausea

Emotional

- Fear and anxiety
- Helplessness
- Guilt and shame
- Embarrassment

These are just some of the feelings survivors may have as a result of a sexual assault. Your feelings may be different. You have the right to feel them and to receive professional support to help you address them.

