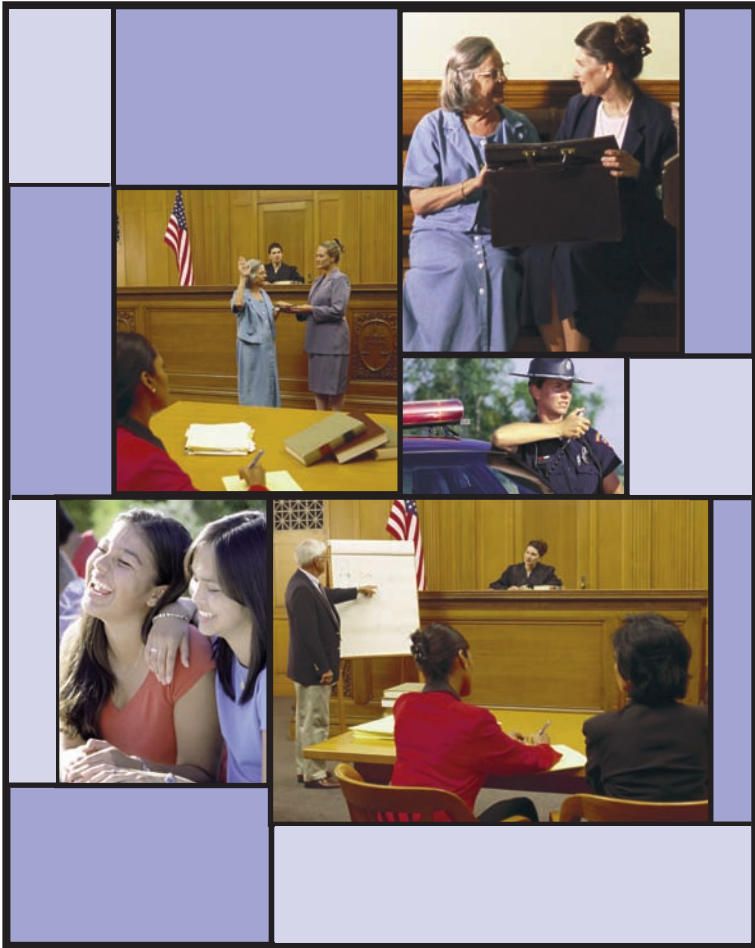


*AFTER SEXUAL ASSAULT*



*A GUIDE  
TO ADVOCACY  
SERVICES*

*HELP FOR VICTIMS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS*

If you, or someone you know, has been sexually assaulted or sexually abused, this booklet is for you. It contains information on assistance available to victims of sexual assault.



Published February 2004  
Reprinted January 2005  
Reprinted September 2005  
Reprinted September 2006  
Reprinted September 2007  
Reprinted September 2008  
Reprinted March 2009

This project was supported by Grant # #01-VA-GX-0017, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office for Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, through the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. Points of view or opinions contained within this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice or the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

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## WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

**A**fter you have been sexually assaulted, you may want someone to assist you with what happens next. You may want to go to the hospital for medical care.



You may decide to report the rape to the police. You may want to file criminal charges against the attacker.

During each step, you can get help from an **advocate**. The advocate will help you, your family and your friends by providing you information and assistance at the hospital, police station and through the court process. This help is called **advocacy**.

The 34 ICASA rape crisis centers in Illinois have advocates ready to help you. Advocates provide free, victim-centered services. This booklet explains how to find an advocate and what she can do for you.

## WHAT IS AN ADVOCATE?

**A**n advocate supports the sexual assault victim. She brings comfort, support and information for the victim and her loved ones.

The advocate knows about the medical care a victim receives after the assault. She knows how the police can help. She knows how the court system works. She is the victim's personal link to the medical, police and court systems.

An advocate knows the workers at the hospital, police station, State's Attorney's office and courthouse. She helps them understand sexual assault and support the victim. She works with these people to help the victim. The advocate is available for the victim through every step of every process.

The victim does not pay for an advocate's help. **Services from rape crisis centers are free and confidential.**

## HOW DO I CONTACT AN ADVOCATE?

**A**dvocates work at ICASA rape crisis centers. There are several ways a victim or her family and friends can contact an advocate.

**Call the nearest rape crisis center** that is a member of the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault (ICASA). Each center has a 24-hour crisis hotline. The locations and telephone numbers of these centers are listed in the back of this booklet. You can also find information about each center on the Internet at [www.icasa.org](http://www.icasa.org). Each center can provide an advocate in its service area 24-hours-a-day, seven days a week.

**At the hospital emergency room** ask a nurse or other hospital employee to call an advocate. The advocate will come to the hospital to help the victim.

**Call the police.** Ask the police to call an advocate.

An advocate can be contacted at any time after the assault to help a victim. If the victim has already reported to the police or received medical care, an advocate can still help the victim with followup care and through the court system.

## WHAT DOES AN ADVOCATE DO?

**A**fter a sexual assault, a victim has several decisions to make. A victim may call a rape hotline. She may go to the hospital emergency room. She may call the police.

At each step, the advocate explains to the victim what will happen.

She helps the victim understand her choices and the decisions she is making. She protects the victim's right to be respected at all times. The advocate speaks up for the victim's rights and wishes. She will help the victim get information about her case.



The advocate works with the victim when the victim is:

- **Going to the hospital;**
- **Reporting to the police;**
- **Going to court.**

During all times the victim can ask the advocate to talk with hospital staff, police and State's Attorneys on her behalf.

## AT THE HOSPITAL

**A**n advocate can meet the victim at the hospital. The victim or hospital staff can call for an advocate.

At the hospital, the victim may ask the advocate for support in several ways. If the victim wants her to, the advocate will:

- Wait with the victim;
- Call the victim's family or friends;
- Explain the medical exam and the evidence collection procedure to the victim;
- Stay with the victim during the exam;
- Help the victim get emergency contraception if the hospital does not provide this medication;
- Bring clothes for the victim to wear home from the hospital;

- Explain the role of law enforcement at the hospital and help the victim decide if she wants to talk to police;
- Call a locksmith if the victim's home was broken into;
- Arrange transportation and lodging; and
- Give the victim information about how the rape crisis center can help her after she leaves the hospital.

## REPORTING TO POLICE

If the victim chooses to report the attack to the police, the advocate can:



- Go with her to report the assault;
- Explain how to report the assault to the police;
- Explain the victim's rights throughout the police investigation; and
- Go with her to identify the attacker in a police lineup.

## GOING TO COURT

The State's Attorney decides whether there is enough evidence to file criminal charges in a case. The State's Attorney is the lawyer who prosecutes the attacker. The advocate will work with the State's Attorney to keep the victim updated on the case and make sure the victim's rights are respected.

During the court process, the advocate can:

- Go with the victim to the State's Attorney's office and be available to discuss how the case will be handled;
- Talk with the State's Attorney about charges being filed;
- Explain the trial process to the victim, answer her questions and get information for her;
- Work with the State's Attorney to prepare the victim to testify at the trial;
- Go to court with the victim when she testifies;
- Keep the victim updated on the case;



- Contact the victim's employer to explain why she may need to miss work (or school) to go to court; and
- Help the victim write a Victim Impact Statement to give to the judge if the attacker is convicted.

If the State's Attorney does not file charges, it does not mean the assault didn't happen. It only means there is not enough evidence to charge the offender.

## FOLLOW-UP CARE

**A**dvocates help victims after the initial hospital visit or meeting with police.

An advocate can go with the victim to follow-up appointments with medical personnel at the hospital or doctor's office.

Advocates work with the hospital to make sure victims are not billed for hospital services.

Advocates also help victims file for crime victim compensation funds administered by the State of Illinois. Advocates have access to the applications and will guide the victim through the process.

## THE ADVOCATE'S LIMITATIONS

**A**n advocate can assist the victim in several ways; however, there are certain things that the advocate can't do. The advocate does not attempt to influence the victim's decision to report or file charges. The advocate does not investigate the case or testify in the case.

An advocate does not counsel the victim. As part of helping



the victim through the medical, police and court systems, the advocate talks with the victim about her feelings during these steps. But, if a victim wants more counseling, the advocate will find a counselor at the rape crisis center to help the victim with her emotional recovery from the attack. ICASA rape crisis centers provide free and confidential counseling.

## A VICTIM'S RIGHTS

**A** sexual assault victim is guaranteed certain rights under the Illinois Constitution and Illinois statutes. Crime victims have the following rights in Illinois:

- The right to be treated with fairness and respect for their dignity and privacy throughout the criminal justice process.
- The right to notification of court proceedings.
- The right to communicate with the prosecution.
- The right to make a statement to the court at sentencing.
- The right to information about the conviction, sentence, imprisonment and release of the accused.
- The right to the timely disposition of the case following the arrest of the accused.
- The right to be present at the trial and all other court proceedings on the same basis as the accused, unless the victim is to testify and the court determines that the victim's testimony would be materially affected if the victim hears other testimony.
- The right to restitution.

## THE RIGHT TO CONFIDENTIALITY

Under Illinois law, the victim has the right to confidentiality at the rape crisis center. Anything she tells the advocate is confidential. Only the victim decides if the information can be told to anyone else.

# THE LAW

The advocate understands the sexual assault laws in Illinois. She can work with the police and State's Attorneys to make sure they are informed about the laws and current case law.

The following is summary information about the Illinois Criminal Sexual Assault Law in Illinois.



## **Criminal Sexual Assault**

The attacker used force to sexually penetrate the victim's body.

## **Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault**

The attacker used a weapon or threatened to kill the victim during the sexual assault.

## **Criminal Sexual Abuse**

The attacker used force to touch the victim's sex organs, anus or breast.

## **Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse**

The attacker used a weapon or threatened to kill the victim during the sexual abuse.

## **Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault of a Child**

An adult commits sexual assault on a child under the age 13.

Sexual assault and sexual abuse are crimes. They are crimes even if:

- The victim knew the attacker;
- The victim did not fight back;
- The victim had sex with the attacker before the attacker raped her;
- The victim was drunk or unconscious.

### **Remember...**

- Sexual assault is a crime.
- Anyone can be a victim of sexual assault.
- The victim is not to blame.
- The victim has the right to respect, information and confidentiality.

An advocate can support the victim and give her information about her choices.

Advocacy services are available 24 hours a day, free of charge. Call the rape crisis center nearest you for more information. Information on ICASA's centers can be found at the back of this booklet or on the Internet at [www.icasa.org](http://www.icasa.org).

# ICASA RAPE CRISIS CENTERS ...

## ■ NORTH

### ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

Northwest CASA  
24 hrs. 888-802-8890

### AURORA

Mutual Ground, Inc.  
24 hrs. 630-897-8383

### CHICAGO HEIGHTS

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago  
South Suburban Center Sexual  
Violence and Support Services  
24 hrs. 708-748-5672

### DEKALB

Safe Passage, Inc.  
24 hrs. 815-756-5228

### ELGIN

Community Crisis Center  
24 hrs. 847-697-2380  
TTY 847-742-4057

### GALENA

Riverview Center  
24 hrs. 888-707-8155

#### **Satellite Office:**

#### **Mount Carroll**

Riverview Center  
Carroll County  
24 hrs. 877-273-7772

#### **Satellite Office:**

#### **Dubuque, Iowa**

Riverview Center  
Dubuque County  
24 hrs. 888-557-0310

#### **Satellite Office:**

#### **Manchester, Iowa**

Riverview Center  
24 hrs. 888-707-8155

### GLENDALE HEIGHTS

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago  
Patterson and McDaniel  
Family Center  
24 hrs. 630-971-3927  
TTY 630-790-6600

### GURNEE

Zacharias Sexual  
Abuse Center  
24 hrs. 847-872-7799  
TTY 847-244-1367

### HICKORY HILLS

The Pillars Community  
Services  
24 hrs. 708-482-9600  
**Satellite Office: Berwyn**  
The C.A.R.E. Center  
24 hrs. 708-482-9600

### JOLIET

Sexual Assault Service Center  
Guardian Angel Community  
Services  
24 hrs. 815-730-8984  
TTY 815-744-6369

### KANKAKEE

Kankakee County Center  
Against Sexual Assault  
24 hrs. 815-932-3322  
TTY 815-932-7273  
**Outreach Office: Watseka**  
Iroquois Sexual Assault  
Services.  
24 hrs. 815-432-0420

### McHENRY

Voice Sexual  
Assault Program  
24 hrs. 800-892-8900

### PRINCETON

Freedom House, Inc.  
24 hrs. 800-474-6031

### QUAD CITIES

Rape/Sexual Assault  
Program  
Family Resources, Inc.  
24 hrs. 309-797-1777  
TTY 309-793-1443

### ROCKFORD

Rockford Sexual Assault  
Counseling, Inc.  
24 hrs. 815-636-9811  
**Satellite Office: Belvidere**  
Rockford Sexual Assault  
Counseling, Inc.  
24 hrs. 815-636-9811  
**Satellite Office: Rochelle**  
Rockford Sexual Assault  
Counseling, Inc.  
24 hrs. 815-636-9811  
**Outreach Office: Rockford**  
Prevention Office  
24 hrs. 815-636-9811

### STERLING

YWCA of the Sauk Valley  
24 hrs. 815-626-7277  
TTY 815-625-6870  
**Satellite Office: Dixon**  
YWCA of the Sauk Valley  
24 hrs. 815-288-1011

### STREATOR

ADV & SAS  
24 hrs. 800-892-3375  
**Satellite Office: Pontiac**  
ADV & SAS  
24 hrs. 800-892-3375  
**Outreach Office: Ottawa**  
ADV & SAS  
24 hrs. 800-892-3375

## ■ CHICAGO

Chicago Citywide  
Tollfree 24-Hour Hotline  
1-888-293-2080

### RAPE VICTIM ADVOCATES

**Satellite Office: Chicago**  
RVA - Stroger Hospital of  
Cook County  
**Satellite Office: Chicago**  
Austin Community Satellite

# ICASA RAPE CRISIS CENTERS ...

## **YWCA METROPOLITAN**

### **CHICAGO** **SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND** **SUPPORT SERVICES**

**Satellite Office: Chicago**  
YWCA Metropolitan Chicago  
Laura Parks and  
Mildred Francis Center  
**Satellite Office: Chicago**  
YWCA Metropolitan Chicago  
Englewood  
**Satellite Office: Chicago**  
YWCA Metropolitan Chicago  
Logan Square  
**Outreach Office: Chicago**  
YWCA Metropolitan Chicago  
RISE Children's Center  
**Outreach Office: Chicago**  
YWCA Metropolitan Chicago  
Uptown Outreach Services

## **MUJERES LATINAS EN ACCION**

## **■ CENTRAL**

### **BLOOMINGTON**

Stepping Stones Sexual  
Assault Services  
YWCA of McLean County  
24 hrs. 309-827-4005

### **CHARLESTON/MATTOON**

Sexual Assault Counseling  
& Information Service  
24 hrs. 888-345-2846  
**Satellite Office: Robinson**  
Counseling & Information  
for Sexual Assault/Abuse  
24 hrs. 866-288-4888  
TTY 618-544-9379

### **DANVILLE**

Vermillion County  
Rape Crisis Center  
24 hrs. 866-617-3224

### **DECATUR**

Growing Strong Sexual  
Assault Center  
24 hrs. 217-428-0770

## **MACOMB**

Western Illinois Regional  
Council/Community Action  
Agency Victim Services  
24 hrs. 309-837-5555

## **PEORIA**

The Center for the  
Prevention of Abuse  
Sexual Assault Services  
24 hrs. 309-691-4111 or  
800-559-SAFE  
TTY 309-691-0551

## **QUINCY**

Quanada Sexual  
Assault Program  
24 hrs. 800-369-2287  
TTY 217-223-2383  
**Satellite Office: Pittsfield**  
Pike County Satellite Office  
24 hrs 800-369-2287

## **SPRINGFIELD**

Prairie Center Against  
Sexual Assault  
24 hrs. 217-753-8081  
**Satellite Office: Jacksonville**  
Prairie Center Against  
Sexual Assault  
24 hrs. 217-753-8081

## **URBANA/CHAMPAIGN**

Rape, Advocacy, Counseling  
and Education Services  
24 hrs. 217-384-4444  
or 877-236-3727

## **■ SOUTH**

### **BELLEVILLE**

Call For Help, Inc. Sexual  
Assault Victims Care Unit  
24 hrs. 618-397-0975  
TTY 618-397-0961

### ***Satellite Office:***

#### ***East St. Louis***

Call For Help, Inc. Sexual  
Assault Victims Care Unit  
24 hrs. 618-397-0975  
**Satellite Office: Granite City**  
Call For Help, Inc., Sexual  
Assault Victims Care Unit  
24 hrs. 618-397-0975

### **CARBONDALE**

Rape Crisis Services of  
The Women's Center, Inc.  
24 hrs. 618-529-2324 or  
800-334-2094  
TTY 618-529-2324

### ***Satellite Office: Marion***

Rape Crisis Services of  
The Women's Center, Inc.  
24 hrs. 800-334-2094  
TTY 618-993-0803

### **VANDALIA**

Sexual Assault and  
Family Emergencies  
24 hrs. 800-625-1414  
**Satellite Office: Centralia**  
Sexual Assault and  
Family Emergencies  
24 hrs. 800-625-1414  
**Outreach Office:**  
**Effingham**  
Sexual Assault and  
Family Emergencies  
24 hrs. 800-625-1414

FOR SERVICES AND INFORMATION IN YOUR  
COMMUNITY CONCERNING SEXUAL ASSAULT OR  
SEXUAL ABUSE, CONTACT:

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100 N. 16th Street  
Springfield, IL., 62703

Phone: 217-753-4117 TTY: 217-753-9472 Website: [www.icasa.org](http://www.icasa.org)