

Sexual Assault Support Center Advocates

Maine's Sexual Assault Support Centers

Maine's sexual assault support centers' advocates provide support for survivors in healing after a sexual assault, no matter when the assault was perpetrated; help survivors understand what rights they have; and refer survivors to appropriate community resources. Advocates are professionals who must meet certain training requirements and other criteria to work with sexual assault survivors. They also receive training to work inside prisons/jails and have an understanding of PREA and the criminal justice system.

Advocates provide the following services to incarcerated individuals:

Crisis intervention over the phone to a survivor who has experienced a sexual assault, no matter when the assault was perpetrated.

Talk with a survivor about their safety in the weeks following the assault and help the survivor plan for continued safety in the facility.

Explain the different PREA reporting options to a survivor interested in reporting an assault.

Discuss law enforcement reporting options with a survivor.

Teach coping skills to help a survivor heal from the traumatic experience of sexual violence.

Support a survivor at a sexual assault forensic exam at a community hospital.

Advocate for a survivor's ongoing medical needs related to the assault to be met by the correctional facility.

Explain the facility's PREA investigation process to a survivor.

Support a survivor at a law enforcement interview or hearing.

Advocates are not in correctional facilities to:

- Provide legal advice
- Make decisions for the survivor
- Tell the survivor whether to report or not
- Investigate a crime
- Be a survivor's friend
- Provide therapy

How to access Maine's sexual assault support center advocates varies based on where in the state you are located. Check your facility's policies or call 1-800-871-7741 to be routed to your local sexual assault support center.

This guide was developed with permission from and thanks to the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs.