

K. Domestic and Sexual Violence Response and Accompaniment

Survivors of domestic and sexual violence have the right to have the support of a confidential advocate throughout their continuum of care. A SAFE advocate is available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year to provide emergency advocacy and accompaniment, unless otherwise engaged in services.

1. SAFE advocates may respond to and assist victims at police stations; hospitals or health care centers; and other safe public locations.
2. SAFE advocates may respond to the scene of a crime or victim's home if accompanied by another community partner agency, such as Department of Human Services or law enforcement, and if the location has been confirmed by the accompanying party as a safe location. Advocates should always notify their supervisor before responding to the scene of a crime or victim's home.
3. SAFE advocates cannot provide mental health counseling; legal or medical advice, records, or information; transportation for a client or community partner; or interfere with or participate in evidence collection.
4. Clients and community agencies may request an advocate respond to a location by calling the 24 Hour Help Line.
5. The on-call advocate should assess the safety and immediate need for the response.
6. If an advocate is not available to respond because all are engaged in other service delivery, the on-call advocate should request a referral for SAFE which includes a phone number to reach the client and whether it is safe to leave a message.
7. Whenever possible, the on-call advocate should speak directly to the client and confirm the client wants support from SAFE.
8. The on-call advocate should inform the client or service provider of the client's rights and legal, medical, and other options for seeking help.
9. The on-call advocate should make note of where they will meet the client, and inform their back-up advocate.
10. The on-call advocate will respond to the location within an hour of confirming the response.
11. If the response requires shelter admittance or intervention, the on-call advocate is responsible for responding and completing the shelter intake, as described in Section L. The Starting Place Shelter, if applicable. If the response to the

shelter may require eviction of a resident, the advocate should request their back-up advocate accompany and assist in the eviction. The on-call staff person should notify the Shelter Coordinator of any response for follow up case management and safety planning the following business day.

12. If a survivor is admitted to a hospital for a forensic exam or wellness check relating to domestic violence or sexual assault, medical personnel may request an advocate by calling the 24 Hour Help Line.
 - a. The advocate should respond to the hospital and remain at the hospital as long as the survivor wants their assistance. At minimum, the advocate will leave a business card and information about Oregon Victims' Rights and SAFE's services for the survivor.
 - b. If the survivor is a child victim of domestic violence or sexual assault, the advocate should provide information and support for the child and any accompanying family or caregivers, as well as request law enforcement and/or medical personnel make a referral to the Amani Center (Columbia County Child Abuse Assessment Program) for additional follow-up services.