

EFFECTIVE: 1 November 2000

REVISED: 1 December 2008
1 January 2010
20 June 2011
31 August 2015

SUBJECT: Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

ISSUED BY: Fernando Solorzano

I. PURPOSE

To provide immediate medical attention, advocacy and criminal justice services to victims/survivors of sexual assault.

II. BACKGROUND

SART is a team comprised of a forensic nurse, a sexual assault investigator, the District Attorney and a sexual assault victim’s advocate. The Department has established a contract with Forensic Nurse Specialists who are based at the East Long Beach Urgent Care. Their address is:

East Long Beach Urgent Care
1720 Termino Avenue
Long Beach, California 90804

SART enables the victim/survivor to be provided immediate medical treatment, advocacy and criminal justice services at the hospital and with the least amount of inconvenience to the victim/survivor.

III. POLICY

It shall be the policy of this Department to provide immediate medical attention, sexual assault victim’s advocacy and the necessary completed investigations for those sexual assault victims/survivors desirous of SART procedures. All personnel assigned to a sexual assault case shall take every step possible to provide support and sympathy to a victim/survivor.

IV. PROCEDURE

When an officer has confirmed a sexual assault has occurred within this jurisdiction, the victim/survivor shall be informed of the services provided under SART. If desired by the victim/survivor, the officer will provide transport to the Long Beach Community Hospital. The police dispatcher shall then implement SART by the following procedures:

- (a) Notify the on-call nurse with Forensic Nurse Specialists. The contact number for S.A.R.T. is an answering service who will contact the on-call forensic nurse to coordinate the opening of the S.A.R.T. facility.
- (b) If during regular business hours for the University notify the on-campus sexual assault victim's advocates. Candis Simmons-Davis can be reached at the Women's and Gender Equity Center. Linda Pena can be reached at the Student Health Services Center.

If not during regular business hours notify the YWCA Rape Crisis Hotline. Advise Hotline personnel that an officer is taking a sexual assault victim/survivor to the East Long Beach Urgent Care Facility for a S.A.R.T. exam. Request a sexual assault crisis advocate respond to the hospital to assist the victim/survivor.

- (c) Notify Interval House. Advise that an officer is taking a sexual assault victim/survivor to the East Long Beach Urgent Care Facility for a S.A.R.T. exam. Request a sexual assault advocate respond to the hospital to assist the victim/survivor.
- (d) Contact Investigations, if requested to do so by the watch commander. If the investigator is not contacted, it shall be the assigned officer's responsibility to initiate a criminal report, initial investigation and collection of evidence.
- (e) It shall be the investigator's responsibility to contact the on-call District Attorney when warranted.
- (f) When confronted with a sexual assault which occurred outside the jurisdiction, the officer should take into consideration the victim's ability to report the incident to the appropriate agency. If the victim is physically incapable of reporting, officers should take a courtesy report. If the victim's emotional state leads the officer to believe they will not report to the appropriate agency, officers should take a courtesy report.

Examination fees for this procedure shall not be paid by the victim/survivor, but shall be billed to the Department.

APPROVED