

What Medical Advocates Need to Know

*Document adapted from the presentation “What Medical Advocates Need to Know” by KellyMarie Ziemann, IowaCASA Prevention/Education Coordinator. Presented at the IowaCASA 48-hour advanced certification training March 25th, 2010.

What Medical Advocates Need to Know

- ◆ Procedures of the local hospital
- ◆ Evidence collection and chain of custody
- ◆ Medical rights of survivors
- ◆ Privacy rights & consent rights of minors
- ◆ Center procedures
- ◆ How to take care of themselves
- ◆ Minimum care standards/hospital’s legal obligations to survivor
- ◆ Confidentiality of statements to rape crisis personnel
- ◆ The hospital’s mandate to notify law enforcement
- ◆ Financial coverage of exam and follow-up care

Arrival at the Hospital

- ◆ Getting to the hospital & response time protocol
- ◆ Introduce yourself to nurse
- ◆ If necessary, explain agency and your role
- ◆ What you need to know about the assault
- ◆ Ask about any special needs
- ◆ Introduce yourself to the victim.
- ◆ Meet family/friends if available

Responding to the Survivor

- ◆ DO NOT touch the survivor
- ◆ Pay attention to survivor’s mood
- ◆ Establish rapport
- ◆ Address immediate need first
- ◆ Be careful with language
- ◆ Educate about Rape Trauma

- ◆ Choices, choices, choices & consent

Inform the Victim About the Medical Process

Two Stages of the Exam

- ◆ Medical Exam—educate on options & rights
 - First pelvic exams
 - Basic sexual health education
 - Appropriate language
- ◆ Evidence Collection Kit—educate on options, rights and results of choices
- ◆ Explain advocates presence during medical exam and/or during police interview
- ◆ Explain other medical issues

Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault

- ◆ Indicators of DFSA
- ◆ Drug testing: methods, time frames
- ◆ Testing rights & consent procedures
- ◆ Special needs and concerns of victim

Next Steps:

Provide information about the next steps:

- ◆ Medical aftercare & options
- ◆ Legal process & options
- ◆ Center services and follow-up

Leaving the Hospital

- ◆ Provide clothing
- ◆ Assist with transportation
- ◆ Survivor’s safety needs (physical & emotional)
- ◆ Give brochures, paperwork, contact information

The Advocate’s Trip Home

- Identify ways to take care of You