

SB

134



Alaska State Legislature

Senator Con Bunde
Senate District P

Vice Chair: Senate Finance Committee
Chair: Senate Labor & Commerce Committee
Sponsor Statement for SB 134

"An Act relating to a pilot project to review and investigate certain complaints from victims of sexual assault in the first degree or sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree concerning actions of justice agencies."

SB 134 expands the Office of Victims' Rights (OVR) investigation and advocate rights and responsibilities. Currently, if a victim of sexual abuse or assault is unsatisfied with the speed or thoroughness of their investigation, he or she has no real recourse or options for seeking additional help.

SB 134 allows OVR to intercede on behalf of the victim if necessary in cases involving unclassified sexual assault or sexual abuse investigations. This legislation provides OVR with the same rights and responsibilities while handling these cases as they do with their current court cases. In SB 134, the attorneys with OVR are charged with determining if there has been negligence in the reported investigations and assisting the victim if so. Given the Office of Victims' Rights' current responsibilities, SB 134 is a natural extension in providing Alaskans with the greatest victim protection services possible. This legislation is a pilot program, set to end in September 2008. At this point, the Legislature along with OVR will determine if the investigation rights are necessary or if they should be expanded.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Uniform Crime Report (UCR), *Alaska has the highest per capita rate of reported rapes*. In 2003, our 600 reported rapes equaled a rate of 92.5 rapes per 100,000 inhabitants. Michigan, ranking as the second highest state, had 54.1 reported rapes per 100,000 inhabitants. To summarize, Alaska's per capita rape rate is nearly 71% greater than that of the next highest state.

However, Alaska's rate of arrest is almost *half* the national average. On a national average, 28 arrests are made for every 100 reported rapes. In Alaska, 17 arrests are made for every 100 reported rapes (2003 UCR). Nationwide, it is calculated that a sex offender will go to prison for only 6 out of every 100 sexual assaults—per capita, convictions in Alaska are most likely less common.

Under current practices, crime victims and the public at large have no direct method to question the practices of police investigations or conduct. In larger municipalities, a victim may file a complaint; however, in most cases, all proceedings with the complaint are kept private within the police department and the victim has no formal recourse or resolution. In smaller, rural areas, there is no department in which to file the complaint. Often times, there are only one or two peace officers in the area. This truly leaves the victim without recourse. This bill provides crime victims a place to bring complaints regarding an officer's conduct and assures the public that officers are held accountable for unclassified sexual assault and sexual abuse investigations.

I urge your support of SB 134.



Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Web: www.akrepublicans.org

Sponsor: Senator Con Bunde
Current Version: CSSE 134 (JUD)
Contact: Lauren Rice, 465-4843

Fact Sheet for: Senate Bill 134

Short Title: POLICE INVESTIGATION STANDARDS/ARRESTS

Summary:

- Establishes a pilot program within the office of victim's rights to review cases in which the victim of first degree sexual assault or sexual abuse of a minor complains that the investigation has not been timely or thorough.
- Begins the pilot program Sept. 1, 2006 and ends it August 31, 2008.
- Gives the victim's advocate the jurisdiction to investigate the complaint and assist with contacting the justice agencies.
- Requires the victim's advocate to consult with, and report to the justice agencies.
- Gives the victim advocate the privileges and immunities set out in AS 24.65.190 and 24.65.200.
- Makes it a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 to hinder, or refuse to comply with, the victim's advocate in connection with this program.
- Requires the office of victim's rights to report its conclusions concerning complaints investigated under the program to the legislature by Sept. 30, 2008.

Benefits:

- Provides crime victims a place to bring complaints regarding an officer's conduct and assures the public that officers are held accountable.

Background:

- Currently, if a victim of sexual abuse or assault is unsatisfied with the speed or thoroughness of an investigation, he or she has no real recourse or options for seeking additional help. SB 134 allows the office of victim's rights (OVR) to intercede on behalf of the victim if necessary in cases involving unclassified sexual assault or sexual abuse investigations, and gives the office the same rights and responsibilities while handling these cases as it has with current court cases. Attorneys with OVR are charged with determining if there has been negligence in the reported investigations and assisting the victim if so.

Alaska's per capita rape rate is nearly 71% greater than that of the next highest state. However, Alaska's rate of arrest is almost half the national average. In larger municipalities, a victim may file a complaint, however, in most cases, all proceedings with the complaint are kept private within the police department and the victim has no formal recourse or resolution. In smaller, rural areas, there is no department in which to file the complaint. Often times, there are only one or two peace officers in the area.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: CSSB 134(STA)
 (S) Publish Date: 4/6/05

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: LAW
 Title: "An Act relating to arrest; relating to investigation standards for police officers conducting criminal..." RDU: CRIMINAL
 Sponsor: Senator Gunde Component: Criminal Justice Litigation
 Requester: Senate State Affairs Component No.: _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 CF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other: (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2005) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Section 1 of the bill requires that arrests be made if a police officer hears a suspect make admissions. If this is interpreted to mean an immediate arrest, which is the interpretation given to a comparable provision in current law, that would cause significant legal problems for the prosecution which could be expected to increase the costs for the Department of Law. In discussions with the staff of the sponsor, it was not the intent, however, that an immediate arrest be made, and based on that interpretation this provision will have no fiscal impact on the department.

Prepared by: Kathryn Daughhete, Director Phone: 465-3673
 Division: Administrative Services Division Date/Time: 3/17/05 9:07 AM
 Approved by: K. Daughhete for Scott Nordstrand, Acting Attorney General Date: 3/17/2005
 Agency: Department of Law

FISCAL NOTE # 1

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSSB 134(STA)

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

Section 2 of the bill requires written investigative standards to be adopted by the Alaska Police Standards Council. This provision has the potential to make it easier for criminal defense attorneys at trial to accuse the police of incomplete investigations, as a way of arguing that reasonable doubt exists. This line of cross-examination is not so easily established today, and could complicate prosecutions by shifting the focus of the trial from the defendant's conduct to whether or not the police followed every investigative standard. This provision alone, however, is not expected to create a fiscal impact on the department.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2
 Bill Version: CSSB 134(STA)
 (S) Publish Date: 4/6/05

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Public Safety
 Title: "Ar. Act relating to arrest, relating to investigation
standards for police officers conducting criminal..." RDU: Alaska State Troopers
 Component: AS Troopers Detachments
 Sponsor: Senator Bunde
 Requester: Senate State Affairs Component No.: 2325

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	**	**	**	**	**	**

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type—Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	**	**	**	**	**	**

Estimate of any current year (FY2005) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Passage of this bill will have an indeterminate, but significant fiscal impact on the Department of Public Safety and local law enforcement agencies.

The bill creates a mandatory arrest provision, and requires the Alaska Police Standards Council (APSC) adopt a set of minimum standard regulations for conducting criminal investigations. It also requires APSC to investigate complaints that police officers violated the criminal investigation standards and determine if the officers certification should be suspended, revoked, or if they may require additional training.

The mandatory arrest provision creates a significant burden on police agencies, the district attorney's office, corrections and the courts.

Prepared by: Lieutenant Todd Sharp Phone: 465-3223
 Division: Alaska State Troopers Date/Time: 3/17/05 2:27 PM
 Approved by: Commissioner William Tandeske Date: 3/17/2005
 Agency: Department of Public Safety

FISCAL NOTE # 2

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSSB 134(STA)

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

The arrest of every single suspect who has made an admission to a police officer, or who the police officer has heard (on a recording) make an admission, will create huge monetary, investigative, and logistical problems for law enforcement. If this bill passes, arrests for criminal offenses would increase, but the quality of investigations would most likely decrease unless adequate funding was provided and the mandatory arrest provision was modified to allow some flexibility for the varied circumstances encountered during the investigation process.

Police will have to interrupt their investigations to effect arrests of suspects. It is usually impractical to just stop an investigation so an arrest can be made. Therefore, we'll be obligated to bring a court services officer or additional trooper to the scene to transport the prisoner.

Arrests of suspects early in an investigation will force other aspects of investigations to be completed in a hurry. An arrest triggers criminal rule 45, which requires the defendant be brought to trial within 120 days of the arrest. Even if cases can be successfully completed under such time constraints, it will require additional troopers or investigators be brought to bear in the event that there are witnesses or co-defendants that need to be interviewed. Making an arrest in some cases "tips off" co-defendants. Investigators would need to hustle to get the co-defendants interviewed before they could formulate or change their stories.

The bill doesn't differentiate between misdemeanor and felony offenses. Troopers and other peace officers frequently avoid making arrests for misdemeanors. Depending on the severity of the offense, and on the availability of law enforcement resources; an individual might not get arrested for driving with a suspended operator's license. The same situation applies with persons who admit that they have shoplifted or committed a minor assault. If law enforcement officers are required to make arrests for every offense they obtain admissions for, we will have incalculable reductions in efficiency and increases in prisoner transport costs.

In western Alaska specifically, police frequently avoid making arrests for minor offenses or for non-violent felony crimes. The provisions of this bill will also include village police officers and village public safety officers. The costs for emergency jail guards and prisoner transports will increase dramatically. This is due to the fact that Alaska State Troopers frequently ask those officers not to make arrests if the timing is difficult, if transportation is awkward, or if investigations need to be more fully developed. If the troopers are required to facilitate transportation and to investigate cases without regard to severity, major amounts of overtime will become necessary. It is easy to see that we could have "trooper A" working a misdemeanor case due to the mandatory arrest provision, and "trooper B" winds up having to be called in on overtime because the on-duty trooper is involved with the minor crime.

There will also be costs associated with rushing defendants to arraignments, accelerated time frames for preliminary hearings, grand jury and bail hearings.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 3
 Bill Version: CSSB 134(STA)
 (S) Publish Date: 4/6/05

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Public Safety
 Title: "An Act relating to arrest; relating to RDU: Alaska Police Standards Council
investigation standards for police officers..." Component: Alaska Police Standards Council
 Sponsor: Senator Bunde
 Requester: Senate State Affairs Component No. 519

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	**	**	**	**	**	**

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type—Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	**	**	**	**	**	**

Estimate of any current year (FY2005) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Passage of this legislation will dramatically increase the workload and expand the duties and responsibilities of the Alaska Police Standards Council (APSC) under the Department of Public Safety (DPS). Although the fiscal impact will be significant, it is not yet possible to determine how many new positions might be necessary to carry out the mandate as set forth in section two of this bill.

Provisions of this bill calls for a mandatory arrest when a peace officer finds reasonable cause that a crime has been committed and the individual to be arrested has made an admission of guilt to the peace officer or that officer has listened to a recording of that admission.

Prepared by: Acting Executive Director Jim Meehan Phone 269-7408
 Division: Alaska Police Standards Council Date/Time 3/17/05 2:21 PM
 Approved by: Commissioner William Tandeske Date 3/17/2005
 Agency: Department of Public Safety

FISCAL NOTE # 3

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSSB 134(STA)

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

Section 2 of this legislation directs APSC to adopt regulations setting minimum standards for police officers for conducting criminal investigations. This includes standards for crime scenes, interview process, collections of evidence, arrest decisions, incident reports, follow-up investigations and response, crime victim safety and support, and a standard for the actual delivery of results of the investigation to the prosecutor.

By using the word "shall" in sections 1 and 2 versus the permissive "may," the conclusion was drawn that the sponsor intended that no exceptions will be allowed under these newly created additions to existing statute.

In addition, APSC shall adopt a standard for investigating complaints that a police officer has violated the standards as adopted in section 2 of the bill. If APSC finds that an officer has violated those standards, they may then suspend or revoke a certificate issued or to require the officer to obtain additional training.

Section 3 was necessary to properly codify existing statute because of the addition of the newly created subsection in section 2 of this bill.

Each criminal case is unique and fluid in nature and often requires a wide range of investigative techniques to be employed by the law enforcement official. If officials have to abide by a written set of standards while conducting a criminal investigation, they could potentially miss something pertinent to a particular case because it wasn't in the prescribed matrix as set forth by APSC.

Due to heavy case loads at many police agencies across the state, quick decisions often have to be made as to how many assets can be put into any particular criminal case. Setting standards to be followed in all similarly classified cases might put an undue demand on often scarce resources. It could force agencies to use these precious resources where they might be better utilized elsewhere.

There are literally tens of thousands of crimes committed in Alaska each year that are investigated by the police. If only a fraction of a percent of those cases resulted in matters that APSC must review under the bill's mandate to "investigate complaints that a police officer has violated the standards adopted in (1) of this subsection," it would be far beyond the capabilities of current staffing.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 4
 Bill Version: CSSB 134(STA)
 (S) Publish Date: 4/8/05

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Administration
 Title An act relating to arrest... RDU Legal and Advocacy Services
 Component Public Defender Agency
 Sponsor Senator Bunde
 Requester Senate State Affairs Component No. 1631

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Personal Services	*	*	*	*	*	*
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	*	*	*	*	*	*

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type-Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	*	*	*	*	*	*

Estimate of any current year (FY2005) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to require peace officers to make an arrest when there is reasonable cause to believe a crime has been committed and the person to be arrested has admitted committing the crime either to an officer or in a recording. The Public Defender Agency's operations will be fiscally impacted because mandatory arrests will result in more criminal charges being prosecuted, thereby increasing the number of cases handled by the Agency. It is not possible to predict with any accuracy, however, the number of new cases assigned to the Agency, that will be generated as a result of these mandatory arrests, therefore an indeterminate note is submitted.

Prepared by: Linda K. Wilson, Deputy Director Phone (907)334-4416
 Division Public Defender Agency Date/Time 3/15/05 1:51 PM
 Approved by: Mike Tibbles, Deputy Commissioner Date 3/15/2005
 Agency Department of Administration

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 5
 Bill Version: CSSB 134(JUD)
 (S) Publish Date: 4/12/06

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: LAW
 Title "An Act relating to investigation standards for RDU CRIMINAL
police officers conducting certain criminal investigations..." Component Criminal Justice Litigation
 Sponsor Senator Bunde
 Requester Senate Judiciary Component No. _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill requires the police standards council to set minimum standards for police officers in the conduct of investigation of sexual offenses.

Passage of this legislation will not have a fiscal impact on the Department of Law.

Prepared by: Kathryn Daughhete, Director Phone 465-3673
 Division Administrative Services Division Date/Time 4/11/06 7:42 AM
 Approved by: Kathryn Daughhete for David Márquez, Attorney General Date 4/11/2006
 Agency Department of Law

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 6
 Bill Version: CSSB 134(JUD)
 (S) Publish Date: 4/12/06

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Public Safety
 Title: "An Act relating to investigation standards for police officers conducting certain criminal investigations..." RDU: Alaska State Troopers
 Component: AST Detachments
 Sponsor: Senator Bunde
 Requester: Senate Judiciary Committee Component No.: 2325

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2005) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Passage of this bill will not have a fiscal impact on the Division of the Alaska State Troopers (AST) within the Department of Public Safety.

This committee substitute requires the Alaska Police Standards Council (APSC) to adopt regulations setting minimum standards for conducting criminal investigations. It also requires APSC to investigate complaints that police officers violated the criminal investigation standards and determines if the officers certification should be suspended, revoked, or if they may require additional training.

Prepared by: Lieutenant Jim Helgoe Phone 907-269-4532
 Division: Alaska State Troopers Date/Time 4/11/06 4:40 PM
 Approved by: Commissioner William Tandeske Date 4/11/2006
 Agency: Department of Public Safety

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 7
 Bill Version: CSSB 134 (JUD)
 (S) Publish Date: 4/12/06

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Administration
 Title: An act relating to arrest;... RDU: Legal and Advocacy Service
 Component: Public Defender Agency
 Sponsor: Sen. Bunde
 Requester: S(Fin) Component No.: 1631

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type—Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: +0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill requires the Alaska Police Standards Council to adopt regulations setting standards for police officers conducting investigations. This bill does not affect Agency operations.

Prepared by: Quinlan Steiner, Director Phone 907.334.4414
 Division: Public Defender Agency Date/Time 04.12.06 1:20 p.m.
 Approved by: Mike Tibbles, Deputy Commissioner Date _____
 Agency: Administration

Sample of Statewide Protocols for Responding to Sexual Assault Crimes					
State	Document	Agency	Collaborators	Authority	Notes
Alaska	Alaska Statewide Protocols For Sexual Assault Response Teams	Dept. of Public Safety and the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault	State Troopers, public health workers, victim's advocates, chiefs of police, and representatives of district attorney's offices and sexual assault response teams	Powers of the Department of Public Safety	SART teams are established to 1) meet the immediate needs of the victim with crisis intervention and support services; 2) provide a joint, effective, sensitive approach to victims of sexual assault; 3) conduct an investigation of the crime; 4) document and preserve forensic evidence for prosecuting the perpetrator of the crime.
	www.endvsa.org/SARTProtocols.pdf				
Arizona	State Plan on Domestic and Sexual Violence	Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women	Governor's Commission, multiple agencies represented	Executive Order	The Commission's report offered fifty far reaching recommendations related to responding to sexual assault, including actions of criminal justice agencies.
	www.governor.state.az.us/civil/womens/stateplan.htm				
Georgia	Sexual Assault Protocols (multiple)	Judicial Circuits (all)	Sheriff, District Attorney, Chiefs of Police, County Health Officers, Citizen Representative, Advocacy Groups, Health Care Professionals	Georgia Statutes 14.24.1-2 (SB 457 (2004))	State statute requires formation of local committees to develop protocols.
	www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2003_04/versions/sb457/As passed Senate 3.htm				
Illinois	Model Guidelines and Sex Crimes Investigation Manual for Illinois Law Enforcement	Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board	Law enforcement, victim's advocates	Powers of the Standards Board	Comprehensive law enforcement response to sexual assault victims and subsequent investigatory procedures.
	www.ptb.state.il.us/publications/sexassault.pdf				

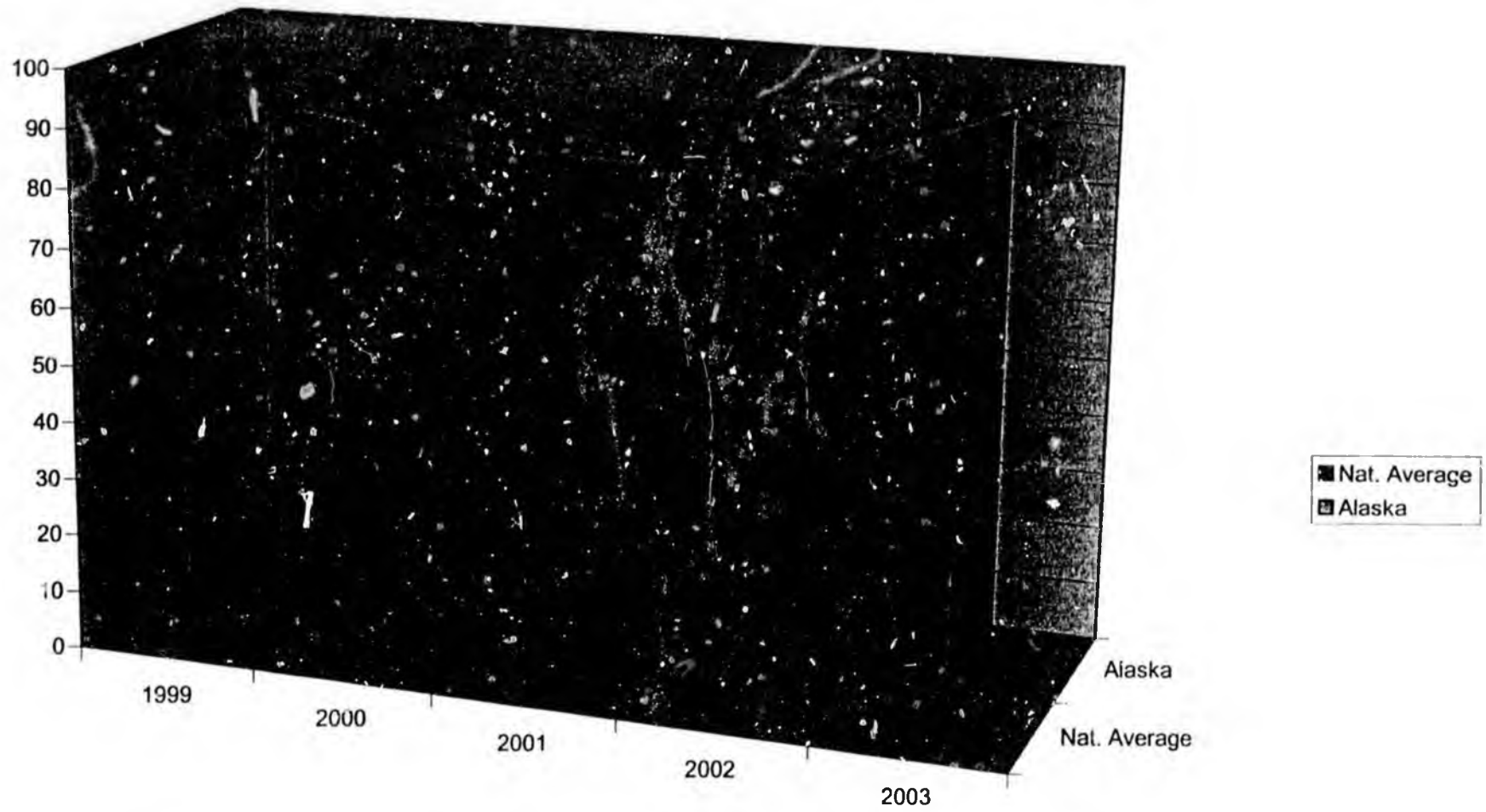
Sample of Statewide Protocols for Responding to Sexual Assault Crimes

State	Document	Agency	Collaborators	Authority	Notes
Michigan	Standard Recommended Procedures for the Emergency Treatment of Sexual Assault Victims	Michigan Sexual Assault Protocol Committee	Michigan Department of State Police and the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office with input from representatives of various agencies	Sec. 703 of Public Act 51 (2001)	Includes sections on initial law enforcement response, evidence collection, and treatment of victims, among others.
	www.courts.michigan.gov/mj/resources/sabb/AppendixD.PDF				
New Jersey	Report Unavailable	Advisory Council Against Sexual Violence	Forty members representing a variety of agencies	Executive Order	The Council was directed to investigate virtually every aspect of sexual assault laws and responses to victims and to return recommendations for improvements
	www.state.nj.us/infobank/circular/eom40.htm				
New York	Sexual Assault Reform Act (SARA)	State Assembly	Unknown	New York Laws 2000, Chapter 1	The Act directed implementation of 51 separate provisions, including the statewide protocols for Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners.
	www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/safe/2004/safestandards2004attachment07.pdf				
Ohio	Ohio Protocol For Sexual Assault Forensic and Medical Exams	Ohio Public Health Council	Attorney General's Office, Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, Ohio Coalition On Sexual Assault, American Academy of Pediatrics, Ohio Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect, Ohio Chapter of the International Association of Forensic Nurses, and the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians	Ohio Public Health Council, which is charged by the Ohio General Assembly to establish procedures for gathering evidence for victims of sexual offenses. (ORC section 2907.29)	Use of this protocol is a requirement of the Ohio Attorney General's office in order for hospitals to be eligible for reimbursement for costs of evidence collection from the Ohio Victims of Crime Compensation Fund.
	www.odh.state.oh.us/ODHPrograms/SADV/sadvprot.htm				

Sample of Statewide Protocols for Responding to Sexual Assault Crimes

State	Document	Agency	Collaborators	Authority	Notes
Oregon	Multiple, see website	Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force	Fifty representatives of law enforcement, public health, victim's advocates, legislature, and faith community	Powers of the Attorney General	The Task Force is ongoing, operating in a number of areas including drafting legislation.
Texas	Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services Act	The Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Service, Attorney General	Unknown	Texas Code 420.001-031	Attorney General may distribute grants to promote community responses to sexual assault victims; directs the Crisis Service to develop evidence collection protocols.
<p>Notes: The states listed are those easily identified through an internet search using the terms "state's sexual assault protocol." This table, therefore, should not be considered exhaustive of states that have developed statewide protocols for responding to crimes of sexual assault.</p>					

Forcible rapes per 100,000



	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
■ Nat. Average	34.16538462	33.42692308	32.62115305	34.08846154	33.68846154
▣ Alaska	83.5	79.3	78.9	79.4	92.5

Forcible Rapes in Western States, 2003

State	Population	Forcible Rapes	Rapes per 100,000 Inhabitants
Alaska	648,818	600	92.5
New Mexico	1,874,614	937	50.0
Washington	6,131,445	2,864	46.7
Colorado	4,550,688	1,893	41.6
Nevada	2,241,154	874	39.0
Utah	2,351,467	892	37.9
Idaho	1,366,332	508	37.2
Oregon	3,559,596	1,218	34.2
Arizona	5,580,811	1,856	33.3
Hawaii	1,257,608	367	29.2
California	35,484,453	9,994	28.2
Montana	917,621	246	26.8

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Uniform Crime Report*, Table 5: "Crime in the United States, by State, 2003;" available online at www.fbi.gov/ucr/03cius.htm.

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH REPORT

JANUARY 18, 2005



REPORT NUMBER 05.088

STANDARDIZATION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT INVESTIGATIONS

BY CHUCK BURNHAM, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

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You asked about states' laws on investigating sexual assaults. Specifically, you asked that we determine if other states have codified investigation standards and procedures for sexual assaults. You asked that we focus our research on laws setting standards for determining which cases must be investigated.

Our research found no states' laws that universally codify policies for determining which sexual assault cases must be investigated. Although the sensitive nature of sexual assault investigations may appear to provide circumstances in which mandatory investigation policies make sense, the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime (OCV), discourages standardization of such procedures across legal jurisdictions. Instead, the OCV advocates local promulgation of policies and procedures that take into account the needs of communities and the availability of law enforcement and resources for victims.

SEXUAL ASSAULT IN ALASKA

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Uniform Crime Report (UCR), Alaska holds the grim distinction of having the highest per capita rate of rape reported to law enforcement agencies.¹ In 2003, the 600 reported rapes in the state represented a rate of 92.5 rapes per 100,000 inhabitants. By comparison, Michigan, the state with the second highest rate,

¹ The UCR contains statistics on crimes as reported to the FBI by more than 17,000 law enforcement agencies covering about 93% of the total U.S. population. The 2003 UCR can be found online at www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm.

had 54.1 rapes per 100,000 inhabitants. In other words, Alaska's per capita rate of rape is nearly 71% greater than that of the next highest state. Sadly, other forms of sexual assault in the state are represented by similarly frightening statistics.

The damage caused to victims and society by sexual assaults is compounded by the fact that arrests for such offenses are relatively rare. The 2003 UCR shows that about 28 arrests are made for every 100 forcible rapes reported to law enforcement agencies in the U.S.² The arrest rate in Alaska was even lower at approximately 17 arrests for every 100 forcible rapes reported.³ Using Bureau of Justice statistic, the victim's advocacy group, the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), calculates that an offender will go to prison for only 6 out of every 100 sexual assaults nationwide. Simply put, in the U.S. it is relatively rare for perpetrators of sexual assault to spend time in jail—such convictions may be even less common in Alaska.

OTHER STATES' INVESTIGATORY PROCEDURES

Our research found no states' laws that universally codify policies for determining which sexual assault cases must be investigated. A number of states require police officers to inform victims of their rights and the resources available to them.⁴ Some states mandate that certain agencies receiving public funds report cases of sexual assault involving persons under their care. These laws are generally directed at vulnerable populations such as senior citizens, children, or disabled persons. Such laws, however, mandate reporting of sexual assaults rather than the actions that law enforcement agencies take to investigate such reports. Where they are in place, statewide standards of investigation are most often the policies of a state's primary law enforcement agency—state patrols, bureaus of investigation, troopers, or state police, for instance. Beyond these organizations, investigatory policies and procedures are largely promulgated at the county, municipal, or local level.

Understandably, standardization of investigatory procedures is, on its face, an appealing approach. This is particularly true in sexual assault cases where, as the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) states, "in the investigation and prosecution of most sexual assault cases, the role of the victim is much more important than in other crimes since the victim is usually the sole witness to the crime" and often has crucial forensic evidence on his or her body. Further, the OVC indicates that the approach of first responders to sexual assault victims can "significantly affect whether the victims begin the road to recovery or suffer years of trauma and anguish."⁵ As such, the OVC considers it critical that first responders, who are often law enforcement officers, approach victims in a sympathetic yet systematic manner. Nonetheless, the OVC encourages policymakers to use caution when considering mandating investigatory policies across legal jurisdictions, as indicated by the following statement.

² In 2003, 93,433 forcible rapes were reported, for which 28,350 arrests were made. According to advocacy groups such as the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), typical rapists commit seven offenses prior to being arrested. As a result, it is likely that, in a significant proportion of arrests, the offender has committed a number of the assaults reported to police. The perpetrators arrested may, therefore, account for a larger proportion of assaults than the "arrests per 100 reported rapes" figures appear to suggest.

³ In 2003, 600 forcible rapes were reported in Alaska for which 103 arrests were made.

⁴ See, for example, Arizona Revised Statutes §13-4401—13-4439, which outlines Crime Victims' Rights in the state.

⁵ U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime, "First Response to Victims of Crime, 2001," Section III; available online at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/publications/intores/firstresp/2001/vicsexast.html.

The United States has numerous police and prosecutorial jurisdictions. No one protocol can be developed that fits the needs of all these jurisdictions. It might be feasible to develop special sex crimes investigation units in large law enforcement agencies or in large metropolitan areas, but in small jurisdictions, this may not be feasible. Likewise, large metropolitan areas have many law enforcement agencies as well as major medical centers, rape crisis centers, and other victim service agencies. Small law enforcement agencies are often located in towns or rural jurisdictions that lack ready access to medical centers and to victim services. Large agencies often have victim advocates, but small agencies rarely do.

Thus, the major issues in developing a protocol in large metropolitan areas or in large law enforcement agencies are likely to be quite different than those in rural areas and in small agencies. Although victims' needs are the same and the elements of effective investigation and prosecution are the same irrespective of the jurisdiction, the protocol itself should reflect the circumstances within different jurisdictions.⁶

STANDARDIZATION OF INVESTIGATIONS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL: SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAMS

Over the past two decades, communities nationwide have increasingly standardized their approaches to both supporting survivors of sexual assault and investigating sex crimes through the use of Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs). A SART is usually comprised of at least one representative from law enforcement, a community-based victim's advocacy group, and a sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE), who is trained specifically to, among other things, collect forensic evidence of the crime.⁷ Members of the team strive to employ a "victim-centered" approach to assisting survivors and investigating the crime by meeting the needs of the victim while ensuring all investigatory processes are completed.

As evidence supporting the positive outcomes related to the use of SARTs for both assault survivors and law enforcement has mounted, the programs have rapidly expanded from just a few communities in the mid-1980s to over 300 programs by 1999. Because SARTs allow law enforcement, victim's advocates, and forensic nurses to closely coordinate their activities, victims are better supported and investigations are more thorough and precise. The net result, according to the OVC, is faster, more complete recovery from the trauma of the assault for the victim and higher rates of successful prosecution for law enforcement. The OVC actively promotes SART programs and expects their numbers to expand rapidly in the coming years as more communities recognize their effectiveness.⁸

⁶ U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime, "National Victim Assistance Academy: Foundations in Victimology and Victims' Rights and Services," Chapter 10, 2002; available online at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/assist/nvaa2002/welcome.html.

⁷ SART and SANE are often used interchangeably to describe victim-centered, community-based, programs for responding to sexual assaults. For the purposes of this report, we use the acronym SART.

⁸ Kristin Little, "Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Programs: Improving the Community Response to Sexual Assault Victims," U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime, OVC Bulletin, April 2001. We include a copy of this publication as Attachment A.

Statewide SART programs, while still relatively rare, are becoming more common. A number of states—New Jersey and Texas, for example—are developing SART programs through the offices of the states' attorneys general. In addition, a number of statewide law enforcement agencies are adopting standards that include SART programs. The Alaska State Troopers, for example, have promulgated protocols for implementing SARTs statewide.⁹ Without doubt, however, locally based SART programs are still the most common.

SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAMS IN ALASKA

The U.S. Department of Justice, Sexual Assault Resource Center, identifies thirteen SART programs in the state of Alaska.¹⁰ Although such programs have been shown to be effective, their implementation depends largely on the same limited pool of resources, particularly with regard to funding, as other public safety agencies and programs. The involvement of community-based advocacy groups may provide a portion of the resources necessary, but public dollars generally remain a primary funding mechanism.

LIMITED RESOURCES AND SARTS: THE ANCHORAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The SART program in the Anchorage Police Department (APD) clearly illustrates the challenges of limited resources. In October 2003, the Anchorage Police Department published a "60-Day Management Report," which discussed a number of departmental problems. Among the findings of the report was that the Department's Special Victim's Unit (SVU), which investigates sexual assaults in the municipality, reviewed 374 cases. According to the APD, when such cases are reported, the victim is brought to the SART center where a nurse examiner collects evidence and the SVU detective conducts an interview in the presence of a community-based victim's advocate. The APD indicates that the system is an excellent one. Nonetheless, because of staffing shortages, 124 of the cases reviewed by the SVU—about one-third—were not assigned for further investigation. Even at this level of investigation, the APD estimates that its SVU staff worked approximately 2,200 hours of combined overtime in 2003.

Not surprisingly, the result of fewer investigations is fewer arrests: in 2003, the APD made about 14.75 arrests for every 100 rapes reported compared to the national rate of about 28 arrest per 100 reported rapes.¹¹ It appears that implementing standardized investigation procedures on a widespread basis may require the identification of additional resources.

I hope you find this information to be useful. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or need additional information.

⁹ We include a copy of the Alaska Department of Public Safety's statewide SART protocols as Attachment B. In addition, we include a statewide guide for developing SARTs from Kentucky and a SART standards guide from San Diego county, as Attachment C. We believe both of these publications are good examples of approaches to forming SARTs.

¹⁰ At least one SART program is currently in place in each of the following communities: Anchorage, Bethel, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Homer, Kodiak, Nome, Palmer, Sitka, Soldotna, Surrey, and Wasilla. It is unclear the degree to which each of these programs follows the Department of Public Safety's protocols or other SART models. We include a listing of these programs and contact information for each as Attachment D.

¹¹ We include a copy of relevant excerpts of the "APD 60-Day Management Report" and relevant crime statistics as Attachment E. Further crime statistics from the APD are available online at www.muni.org/apd1/stats.cfm.

Attachment B

**Alaska Department of Public Safety, Alaska Statewide Protocols for Sexual
Assault Teams**

ALASKA STATEWIDE PROTOCOLS FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAMS

I. Purpose:

These protocols are designed to provide standardized structure for the development, training, and implementation of sexual assault response teams throughout the state of Alaska.

II. Introduction:

The Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) is a multi-disciplinary team developed to improve services to victims of sexual assault. The team is comprised of advocates from the local victim service center, law enforcement officers, and specially trained health care professionals. These team members provide a coordinated, efficient, and supportive response to victims. The benefit of the SART is the ability to provide a full range of comprehensive services to victims who have made the decision to report a sexual assault. This occurs by providing immediate crisis intervention, team interviews, forensic examination, and follow-up as needed. This coordinated response leads to a bond between the victim and the advocate, enables law enforcement to receive a foundation of facts regarding the case, and provides for forensic evidence for prosecution of the sexual offender.

SART teams are established to:

- A. Meet the immediate needs of the victim with crisis intervention and support services.
- B. Provide a joint, effective, sensitive approach to victims of sexual assault.
- C. Conduct an investigation of the crime.
- D. Document and preserve forensic evidence for prosecuting the perpetrator of the crime.

NOTE: Communities that will incorporate their child sexual abuse response protocols with their local sexual assault response team should reference the Alaska Interdepartmental Child Abuse Agreement. This document is available from: The Alaska Children's Cabinet, P.O. Box 112100, Juneau, AK, 99811; phone 907-465-4870, fax 907-465-8638.

III. Steering Committee:

The purpose of the steering committee is to create a structure that provides for initial and ongoing management of the response team. This serves as the structure for addressing any concerns that may arise as the SART progresses. Each SART should have a steering committee comprised of a representative of the following disciplines: local victim advocacy, law enforcement, and health care. The steering committee should develop a method of quality control that may include team meetings or some other problem-solving process. Membership of this group should also include all law enforcement entities in the area, a representative of the District Attorney's office, and others from the community that work as members of a coordinated response to sexual assault cases.

IV. Team Structure:

A. Members

Protocols must clearly identify members of the response team. Members should include:

1. A victim advocate
2. A law enforcement officer
3. A health care professional

B. Roles of Team Members:

1. Advocate:

Advocates provide support to the victim, answer any questions the victim may have, and inform the victim of the process for the interview and examination. The advocate does not participate in the gathering of evidence, fact-finding, or the investigation of the assault. Rather, their focus is placed on insuring that the victim is supported throughout the process. As advocates often provide individual and group support for months and sometimes years to come, the initial bond that develops between advocate and victim is critical. Advocates do not provide an opinion on the merits of the case or participate in conducting the interview, and generally will not testify in court.

2. Law Enforcement:

Law enforcement's role is to investigate and report the facts of the case. Law enforcement will be responsible for the immediate safety needs of the victim; interviewing the victim; investigation of the crime; identifying, arresting, and/or referring charges on the suspect; arranging for forensic examination of the suspect when necessary, writing a report, participating in court proceedings, and all other duties normally associated with investigative and law enforcement functions.

3. Health Care Professional:

The health care professional's role is to provide the health care component of the SART. They perform the physical assessment of the sexual assault victim; collect, document, and preserve forensic evidence; provide information and referral to the victim on health care matters; document the examination in the medical record; and present expert testimony in court.

V. Training Recommendations:

Cross training of the roles and responsibilities of each team component is strongly recommended in order to maintain the multi-disciplinary approach and insure its success. This shall include:

A. Advocate training includes:

1. An overview of the forensic interview, law enforcement investigation, forensic examination, and the legal process as related to sexual assault
2. Observation of a sexual assault trial

3. Supporting preceptorship needs of other team members

B. Law Enforcement training includes:

1. An overview of the forensic examination and victim advocacy process.
2. Sexual assault investigation
3. Interviewing techniques
4. Supporting preceptorship needs of other team members

C. Health Care Professional training includes:

1. The minimum requirements as recommended by the Forensic Nursing Association of Alaska Standards of Practice.
2. Supporting preceptorship needs of other team members.

VI. Overall Structure:

This section of the protocol should include:

A. Facility Location:

1. Identify facility that will be used for the forensic examination and interviews
2. Specifications regarding physical layout of the designated area to insure:
 - a) Treatment priority given to victim
 - b) Privacy for victim
 - c) Safety of victim
3. Identify the contact person at the facility
4. Clear procedures for initiating and implementing call-out response
5. Insure location maintains all necessary supplies for the examination

B. Health Care Professionals

1. Completed didactic training and preceptorship for health care professional prior to performing examinations as the primary health care professional
2. Documentation of valid medical/nursing license in the state of Alaska

C. Law Enforcement

1. Identify law enforcement entity that will be responsible for each location
2. Identify the contact person at law enforcement agency
3. The officer will, when possible, complete training as outlined in protocols prior to responding to a SART call

D. Victim Advocacy

1. Identify the contact person at the victim advocacy agency
2. The advocate will, when possible, complete training as outlined in protocols prior to responding to a SART call

E. Debriefing

1. It is strongly recommended that team members develop a process for debriefing each case.

VII. Service Availability

Identify service parameters, which should include:

- A. Hours of operation
- B. Contact person for each of the service areas
- C. Procedures for outlying areas to access the team
- D. Ages served
- E. Military or other regional considerations
- F. Geographic areas
- G. Procedures for examinations of victims
 - 1. To be provided by a health care professional
 - 2. Timeline
 - 3. Chain of evidence
 - 4. Standing orders
- H. Procedures for examinations for perpetrators:
 - 1. To be provided by law enforcement or health care professional
 - 2. Location of perpetrator examination
 - 3. Chain of evidence

VIII. Call-Out Procedures:

Procedures must be created to insure a smooth and effective call-out response. The procedures must:

- A. Clearly identify procedure for activating a response
- B. Identify contact person for each component of SART
- C. Identify appropriate timeline for call-out response

IX. Forensic Examination Consent Form:

This section of the protocols must address:

- A. Consent for examination, evidence, and photographic evidence release
- B. Consent for communication between team members
- C. Consent forms must clearly define waiver of privacy

X. Interview Process:

Guidelines should address the following:

- A. That medical priorities, victim needs, and safety considerations take precedence over the forensic interview and forensic examination
- B. That all efforts have been made to have all team members present for the interview
- C. That whenever possible, the victim should be given the opportunity to speak with a victim advocate prior to the start of the interview, to explain:
 - 1. The victim's rights regarding the interview and examination
 - 2. The process and structure of the interview and the examination
 - 3. The process of any audio/video taping that will occur

XI. Payment of Services:

This section of the protocols should include:

- A. Procedure to ensure that victims will not be charged for forensic examinations either directly or through insurance billing
- B. Procedure for covering costs of injuries or medical needs other than those of the forensic examination.

XII. Violent Crimes Compensation:

This section of the protocols should include the following:

- A. That law enforcement is to provide notice of Violent Crimes Compensation
- B. That the advocate can provide assistance in completing forms, and provide contact numbers and referrals for additional information

XIII. Examination:

This section of the protocols must include:

- A. Specific procedures outlining the steps for forensic examination
- B. Procedures for follow-up care and referral
- C. Standing orders

XIV. Confidentiality:

This section of the protocols should address the following:

- A. That forensic examination records will be maintained in a separate and secure location
- B. A procedure for processing subpoenas, search warrants, and court orders
- C. Disclosure of the information that is required by law

NOTE: Advocates are generally excluded from disclosing information.

XV. Chain of evidence:

This section of the protocols must include:

- A. Procedure for forensic examiners and law enforcement to insure chain of evidence is maintained.

XVI. Timeline for Examinations

This section of the should address the following:

- A. It is strongly recommended that the forensic exam be completed as soon as possible.
- B. Suitability for a forensic examination should be decided on a case by case basis.



Assessing Justice System Response to Violence Against Women : A Tool for Law Enforcement, Prosecution and the Courts to Use in Developing Effective Responses

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Notes

A product of the *Promising Practices Initiative* of the STOP Violence Against Women Grants Technical Assistance Project.

The goal of the Technical Assistance Project is to strengthen the criminal justice system's response to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking. The project is a collaboration of the Battered Women's Justice Project and the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, a project of the

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

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Introduction

For many of us, the adage, "there is no place like home" conjures up images of warm, comfortable, family scenes. For millions of women in the United States, however, this phrase has a very different meaning. For these women, home is a place of intimidation, fear, and violence. **Domestic violence continues to be the leading cause of injury to women. In fact, women are at greatest risk of becoming a victim of violent crime in their own homes.** The violence is not just debilitating -- the injuries can be deadly. *According to the 1995 FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting system (URC), 26 percent of female homicides are perpetrated by husbands, ex-husbands, or boyfriends (for those cases in which the victim-offender relationship is known).*

Even if she is free of physical or sexual abuse in an intimate relationship, a woman faces the risk of being sexually assaulted by an acquaintance or stranger. **Sexual assault is acknowledged to be the most under-reported violent crime on which national statistics are kept.** Even so, *the redesigned 1992-1993 National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) estimated approximately 500,000 women are the victims of some form of rape or sexual assault each year. In 75 percent of the cases, the victim knows the offender.*

Stalking is another violent crime that plagues many women. Only recently has the justice system and the public recognized stalking as a distinct and serious crime, rather than an antecedent to other crimes. Beyond highly publicized cases involving celebrities and political leaders, there is still little understanding of stalking as a crime, and few people acknowledge it as one that affects "ordinary" people. **In contrast to these highly publicized cases, the majority of stalkers know their victims, and much stalking occurs within the context of domestic violence, particularly when victims try to leave their batterers.** *A survey, jointly sponsored by the National Institute of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, concluded that one out of every twelve American women has been stalked sometime during her life.*

Perpetrators of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking discriminate against no one. Women of all ages, races, cultural and social backgrounds are victims of these violent crimes. The impact of these crimes extends to families, the workplace, and all of our communities.

Over the last two decades, dramatic changes have occurred in the public response to violence against women. Prior to the mid-1980's, the failure of the justice system to take these crimes seriously reinforced the escalating, recurring and often lethal nature of domestic violence and stalking. In this regard, the law - and those responsible for upholding the law - reflected society's tolerance of intimate violence, its prejudices against victims of violence against women, and its ignorance of the complexities of the issues implicit in these crimes.

In the mid-1970's, survivors and advocates gave voice to women who had previously been silent. The battered women's and anti-rape movements demanded additional legal protections and a full range of services for victims. By the late 1970's, a limited number of jurisdictions had initiated legal reforms. Some states passed new civil and criminal laws giving greater protection to victims and enforcing penalties on perpetrators. Criminal justice agencies, some funded under the Law Enforcement Assistance Agency ("LEAA") Family Violence Program, trained personnel, developed innovative policies, and modified jobs to comply with the new laws.

As research began to document the relationship between violence at home and violence in our society as a whole, the criminal justice system looked for ways to stop violence against women. Ongoing advocacy by women's agencies representing battered women and sexual assault victims helped communities understand an effective response required systematic and coordinated change, involving both justice agencies and community providers.

While an increasing number of jurisdictions have undertaken initiatives in recent years to respond to sexual assault and domestic violence, the efforts are sporadic. Laws protecting victims and holding offenders accountable vary, limited numbers of criminal justice personnel are trained to enforce the law, and only some communities have embraced a coordinated response to reduce violence against women with clear strategies for intervention.

The Violence Against Women Act

In 1994, Congress passed and President Clinton signed the landmark Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) to enhance the ability of States and Territories (hereinafter "States") to respond to violence against women. The legislation was designed to begin to close existing gaps and commit the Federal Government to an aggressive response to this epidemic. The VAWA creates new Federal laws, expands existing programs and establishes several new grant programs.

One of the grant programs was established as a formula grant program, designated STOP (Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors). The STOP program is administered by the Violence Against Women Grants Office (VAWGO), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), U.S. Department of Justice. These grants "assist States, Indian tribal governments, and units of local government to develop and strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat violence against women, and to develop and strengthen victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women."

The VAWA defines violence against women as sexual assault, stalking, and domestic violence. It outlines seven specific purpose areas that can be funded with STOP dollars. It also requires states to allocate funds in 25 percent allotments in at least three categories (victim services, law enforcement and prosecution).

Understanding the importance of building a coordinated community response, the Act mandates each State develop a plan to implement the STOP program. The VAWA recognizes the key role community-based advocates have and must continue to play in developing effective strategies to stop violence against women. The Act stipulates each State must "consult and coordinate with nonprofit, non-governmental victim service programs, including sexual assault and domestic violence victim services programs."

The Promising Practices Initiative

In 1997, VAWGO, in cooperation with the STOP Violence Against Women Grants Technical

Assistance Project (STOP T.A. Project), launched an initiative to identify and develop promising practices. This initiative is geared to help communities respond to the challenge of stopping violence against women. Thus far, expert panels have been convened to identify key issues and practices, a national survey of hundreds of practitioners was conducted, names and descriptions of over five hundred programs have been submitted, and in-depth interviews have been conducted.

In the spring of 1998, VAWGO will publish a comprehensive manual to help states and their subgrantees draw on the most promising practices in their fields as they undertake implementation of the VAWA.

The manual will contain chapters on victim safety planning and practices responding to violence against women from the perspective of law enforcement, prosecution, the courts, and victim services. It will also offer a chapter on practices aimed at building coordinated responses to violence against women. Practice descriptions will identify a problem, explain how the practice addresses the problem, briefly describe the components that make the practice work, and propose an action plan to put the practice in place. The descriptions will highlight the barriers under-served populations confront when using the justice system and offer strategies to overcome these barriers.

Practices or specific elements of a practice will be illustrated by program examples. These programs will attest to the usefulness of the practices in saving lives, reducing violence, promoting victim recovery, and holding offenders accountable for their crimes.

In anticipation of the publication of the first volume, VAWGO is releasing the following assessment tool for jurisdictions to use in developing effective responses by law enforcement, prosecution, and the courts. The response checklists are not intended to be exhaustive; rather, they highlight some of the key elements of practices that will be fully explored in the manual.

Interspersed throughout the checklists are boxes defining the principles that undergird and enhance all of the proposed practices. The principles speak to the underlying values that should direct the design and implementation of any strategy to improve a community's response to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. The values include: promoting the safety of women and their families; providing assistance to women to regain control and autonomy in their lives; and holding offenders accountable. These guiding principles of practice will form the foundation of the manual and are woven into the elements of the response checklists.

The checklists are accompanied by selected programs that have successfully incorporated some of the elements of the responses, often utilizing innovative, and potentially replicable strategies. The STOP T.A. Project office has copies of materials that are referred to in the program descriptions and will make them available upon request.

An additional section on the civil justice system response to domestic violence is also included, highlighting on legal representation programs for battered women and law school initiatives.

Readers who wish to comment on the checklists or recommend other practices or programs are encouraged to contact the STOP T.A. Project. Their office can be reached by phone (800-256-5883 or 202-265-0967 in the District of Columbia metropolitan area), fax (202-265-0579), or e-mail (STOPGrants_TA_Projects@csgi.com).

Unique Nature of Violent Crimes Against Women

The majority of violent crimes against women are committed against intimate or known partners. These non-stranger crimes differ significantly from stranger assaults in that the violence perpetrated against the same victim often continues and escalates over time.

In all instances of criminal behavior, the justice system seeks to apprehend and sanction the offender. In domestic violence related cases, the justice system must also take steps to prevent further abuse to the known victim, protect that victim, and connect her with community services which enhance her safety and well-being. The intervention by the justice system may be ongoing and change over time.

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Agency Response Checklists and Program Examples

The following checklists describe the basic roles of law enforcement, prosecution and the courts in responding to violence against women. They also show where agencies coordinate and collaborate with other justice system agencies and community-based advocacy programs.

Review the following lists, checking off responses your jurisdiction performs with success. Make note of gaps in your current response to violence against women.

Also review the selected programs, which illustrate elements of agency responses and often utilize innovative and replicable strategies.

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Interventions Grounded in an Understanding of Violence Against Women

Justice system personnel and community-based victim service providers can work together to develop and espouse shared beliefs about violence against women to guide policies and interventions. Shared beliefs should include:

1. Violence against women is a serious crime, requiring the justice system and community's attention.
2. No form of violence against women is acceptable behavior. Justice personnel must debunk the myths that overtly and covertly support violence against women, and replace them with facts about these crimes, the perpetrators and the victims.
3. Victim safety and welfare, as well as the safety of her children and other family members, is the paramount goal of justice system intervention.
4. Early intervention in violence against women cases, coupled with meaningful penalties and sanctions for offenders, can save lives and prevent further violence.
5. Responding to battered, sexually assaulted and stalked women from traditionally under-served populations requires multi-cultural services and multi-lingual capacity. Jurisdictions must strive to understand the unique problems faced by these victims and work with them to identify solutions.
6. Batterers, sex offenders and stalkers use violence to achieve and maintain control over their

victims.

7. Victims are not responsible for their perpetrator's violent and controlling acts, nor do they have the power to change the perpetrator's attitudes or behavior.
8. Victims are in the best position to judge the danger the perpetrator poses to them and to make their own decisions about their safety. Practitioners have the responsibility to assist victims in this decision-making process by providing information about their options and available community resources.
9. The justice system must recognize the high risk of danger battered women and their families face when the decision is made to leave an abusive relationship. In many instances, domestic violence victims stay in the abusive relationship. The victim must be supported in her decisions, whether or not she decides to participate in the justice system.

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Law Enforcement Response to Violence Against Women

Law enforcement represents the entry point to the criminal justice system for a substantial number of victims and perpetrators. Agency training, policies and protocols can support consistent and effective police intervention in both misdemeanor and felony offenses, while connecting victims with community services and support.

Proactive and aggressive police response can deter further violence and ultimately save lives. Increasingly, law enforcement agencies are promoting early intervention in domestic violence and stalking cases to protect victims before more injuries occur. Officers are being trained to thoroughly investigate sexual assault cases, while being sensitive to the vulnerabilities of victims. Timely and responsive law enforcement intervention can increase victim safety, enhance investigations, and facilitate successful prosecution.

The following checklist describes the basic role of law enforcement in responding to violence against women. It also shows where law enforcement agencies coordinate and collaborate with other justice system agencies and community-based advocacy programs.

Review the following list, checking off responses your agency performs with success.

Make note of gaps in your current response to violence against women.

Law enforcement intervention includes the following elements:

- Dispatcher Response
- Initial Officer Response
- Follow-up Investigator Response
- Supervisor Response
- Data Collection and Communication
- Management Response

Dispatcher Response

Address victim safety:

- Determine the facts and whether the victim is in danger or in need of emergency medical attention.
- If the victim is in danger or needs emergency medical attention, provide her with crisis intervention services and dispatch an ambulance, if necessary.
- Identify the crime as violence against women and give priority rating.
- Obtain information from the victim: name, address and phone, suspect's use of weapons, and whether the suspect is present (if not present, obtain description of the suspect).
- Promptly dispatch a patrol officer and backup unit, as necessary.
- Keep the victim on the phone until the responding officer arrives.
- Remind the sexual assault victim not to bathe or change her clothes.
- Record the victim's excited utterances.

Obtain offender history and information on the likelihood of danger:

- Use the agency database to provide the officer with any available criminal and civil history on the suspect.
- Furnish the officer with information on offender dangerousness and specifics about the incident

Initial Officer Response

Secure the crime scene:

- Respond to the dispatch call in a timely manner, whether it is an immediate or a delayed report.
- Evaluate the potential for violence and secure backup, if possible.
- Take precautions to ensure officer safety.
- Examine the area (e.g., listen for whether noises can be heard from within the residence, observe if lights are on in the residence or if windows are open, and look for evidence of children and the location of car).
- Enter the premises in compliance with the laws of the state.
- Immediately stop the violence and separate parties.
- Determine if children are present. Assess and respond to their immediate needs.
- Evaluate the scene (e.g., damage, alcohol/drug use, emergency mental health issues, or presence of other witnesses).
- Record the victim and the suspect's locations upon arrival.

___ If denied access to the premises and forced entry is not appropriate, return to the scene on a frequent basis to observe any activity in open view.

Address victim safety and provide assistance at the crime scene. The following steps should be taken whether or not an arrest is made:

___ Assure the victim her safety is the priority.

___ Inquire into the victim's need for emergency medical attention and provide first aid, if needed.

___ Provide the victim with information on her rights, referrals to justice system agencies and community-based organizations, and assist with her immediate needs.

___ Ask questions in a supportive and matter-of-fact tone of voice. Be calm, direct and patient. Be clear you want to help her.

___ Let the victim know what her involvement in the investigative and court process entails.

___ Notify the local domestic violence or sexual assault program to provide the victim with immediate assistance at the crime scene or elsewhere.

___ If appropriate, encourage the victim to undergo a forensic medical exam and seek medical treatment.

___ Explain to the victim the importance of evidence collection and medical treatment. Inform her the cost of forensic examination is not her responsibility.

___ Arrange transportation to the designated medical facility for medical care and/or forensic exam, if necessary.

Investigate at the crime scene:

Interviewing the victim :

___ Conduct the victim interview in a private setting, away from the suspect and, if possible, other family members.

___ In the case of a sexual assault, or if there is need for emergency medical attention, conduct the interview after the victim has been treated (most likely at the medical facility).

___ Obtain preliminary information from the victim about the crime and specifics leading up to the abuse, whether there is a relationship between the victim and suspect, prior history of abuse, any court orders, use of weapons, or use of alcohol/drugs.

___ Record the victim's excited utterances and her emotional and physical condition.

___ Note her demeanor, body language and other nonverbal communication.

___ Document the victim's injuries and inquire about injuries that are not visible.

___ Obtain temporary addresses/phone information from the victim.

Identify and interview witnesses :

___ Identify witnesses and their relationship to the victim or the suspect (e.g., children or neighbors).

___ Note the witnesses' demeanor and collect written statements.

___ Interview children in a manner appropriate to their age, away from the suspect and the victim. Document any excited utterances, signs, injuries, or healing of abuse wounds.

Interview the suspect, if present :

___ Obtain rough preliminary information from the suspect (let him talk).

___ Record the suspect's excited utterances, his emotional and physical condition, and demeanor.

___ Note the suspect's injuries in detail.

___ Note any evidence of substance/chemical abuse.

Make an arrest decision:

___ Arrest the suspect if probable cause exists.

___ Where necessary, make a determination of who is the primary aggressor, considering a number of factors (e.g., relative size of the parties, history of abuse, likelihood of future injuries to either parties, and actions taken in self-defense).

___ Charge the suspect with all crimes arising from the incident.

___ Decide to arrest solely on state law, and not on other factors (e.g., speculation the victim will not go forward, the arrest may not lead to conviction, or the race, culture, sexual orientation, class, or profession of either party).

___ Arrange for the suspect's transport to a medical facility to collect physical evidence, if necessary.

___ If the suspect is not present, obtain descriptive information (e.g., his possible whereabouts, the time he left, his vehicle color, type, and license). Broadcast the information to locate and apprehend the suspect.

___ If the suspect is found, attempt to interview. If he cannot be found, apply for a warrant.

___ File a full report even in the case of no arrest, explaining the circumstances.

___ Explain to the victim the reasons for not arresting the suspect. Let both parties know the police take seriously crimes of violence against women.

Collect evidence at the crime scene:

___ Assess the crime scene for physical evidence (e.g. fingerprints, body fluids, footprints, and/ or disrupted objects).

___ Photograph and/or videotape the crime scene prior to touching, moving or disrupting potential evidence. Provide an indication of size or scale.

___ Conduct a nondestructive search for all physical evidence at the crime scene.

___ Collect, properly package and mark all evidence. Ensure all evidence is gathered before releasing the crime scene.

___ Diagram the crime scene and document findings.

___ Photograph the victim's injuries and alert her that subsequent bruising should also be photographed.

___ Photograph the suspect's injuries and take full body photographs.

___ Photograph children's injuries and demeanor.

___ Impound all weapons used.

___ Seize and ensure the 911 tape is preserved.

___ Transport items requiring analysis to the proper crime lab. Store the remaining items in a secure storage area to properly maintain chain of custody.

Facilitate the Forensic Evidence Collection Process:

___ Transport or arrange transportation for the victim to a designated medical facility for emergency care and/or forensic evidence collection, if appropriate.

___ Make sure the victim is seen promptly at the medical facility.

___ Make sure the victim has the support of a victim advocate, if desired.

___ Confirm that the attending nurse or physician has a standardized evidence collection kit.

___ Provide the attending nurse or physician with a brief account of incident.

___ Photograph the victim's injuries or arrange for same-sex medical personnel to do so.

___ Ensure all necessary physical evidence collection procedures are completed.

___ Confer with assisting medical personnel to obtain further information.

___ Request that the victim to sign a release of medical information form.

___ Make sure physical evidence is collected from the suspect, if in custody (in a different location from the victim). The consent of the suspect, a search warrant, or a court order is required to collect physical

evidence from the suspect. For suspect examination, brief medical personnel performing the exam. Provide general details of incident to help guide their collection of evidence.

___ Make arrangement to deliver evidence needing analysis to a designated crime lab, and/or store other evidence in a way that maintains the chain of custody.

Write an incident report:

___ Complete a written report, whether or not an arrest is made. If an arrest was not made, explain why.

___ Include diagrams of all injuries, reports of injuries that are not visible, as well as information noted above.

___ Report on previous incidents known to the officer or reported by the victim or other witnesses.

___ Provide the follow-up investigator with all related reports and documentation, access to stored crime scene evidence, and lab findings from the forensic evidence.

Follow-up Investigator Response

Address victim safety and support needs:

___ Stay in contact with the victim, obtaining information and updating case status.

___ On each contact, assess the likelihood of continued violence by the suspect to the victim and her family.

___ Assist the victim with safety planning. Revise police response as needed to offer optimal protection.

___ Work closely with a community-based advocate to support the victim through interviews and other investigation procedures.

___ Encourage the victim to call the police if the suspect violates any existing court orders.

Gather further information to support charges:

___ Consult with the responding officer (if different) and any officers who collected evidence.

___ Develop an investigative strategy.

___ Arrange for a subsequent interview with the victim if she was unable to proceed with a detailed interview following the incident, or if additional or clarifying information is needed.

___ Re-photograph the victim to document changes in the appearances of the injuries.

___ Encourage the victim to contact the investigator with any new information or evidence.

___ Provide the victim guidance, forms and assistance in documenting the suspect's actions, if appropriate (e.g., to establish a pattern in stalking cases).

___ Obtain statements from any witnesses not interviewed at the scene, identify additional witnesses (including "outcry" witnesses), and collect all pertinent information.

___ Ensure all evidence has been identified, collected, properly stored, and processed from the crime scene, the victim, children that were present, and the suspect.

___ Maintain contact with the crime lab to obtain results, and determine and respond to evidentiary issues.

___ Obtain further information on the suspect's criminal/civil histories and other relevant background.

Identify and apprehend the suspect, if not already arrested:

___ If the suspect was not at the crime scene and his identity is unknown, determine the most likely suspects. Obtain the victim's assistance in making a positive identification. Question the suspect once he is apprehended, using the appropriate investigative strategy.

___ If the suspect is known, attempt to find and interview him, if possible. Also consider other ways to initially contact/warn the suspect, if appropriate (e.g., send him a letter of warning in select stalking cases).

___ Arrest the suspect when probable cause is established.

Deliver the case to the prosecution office:

___ Discuss the case with the prosecution office and secure additional evidence as necessary.

___ Complete necessary reports and forms, and transfer information to the prosecutor's office.

___ Testify as requested throughout court hearings.

Develop a Victim-Centered Approach to Services and Programs

1. Make victim safety the top priority.
2. Respect the integrity and autonomy of each victim.
3. Maintain and protect victim confidentiality.
4. Regard survivor feedback as critical to improved justice response.

Supervisor Response:

___ Oversee officer compliance with agency policies and procedures related to violence against women.

___ Oversee officer compliance with inter-agency agreements related to violence against women.

___ Create forms and incentives to facilitate compliance with agency policies.

___ Problem-solve with officers on complex cases.

___ Assess whether police response meets goals of victim safety and offender accountability.

___ Determine the need for additional officer training or supervision.

Data Collection and Communications:

___ Designate and retrieve all case information.

___ Automate case loads to expedite access to information.

___ Track cases from first call forward, including case substantiation and follow through.

___ Integrate criminal and civil history of offenders into agency database.

Management Response:

Set tone through the development of protocols, practices, training and other mechanisms:

___ Establish protocols and practices grounded in an understanding of violence against women and embody values such as victim safety and confidentiality, respect for the autonomy of victims, and offender accountability.

___ Develop police procedures for handling violence against women committed by law enforcement and other justice system personnel.

___ Promote proactive intervention in all violence against women cases.

___ Allocate funds, resources and personnel to violence against women cases.

___ Support ongoing violence against women training for all new and veteran staff.

___ Build a staff that reflects the demographics of the community it serves.

___ Develop strategies to remove barriers facing under-served populations which prevent them from using the criminal justice system (e.g., translation of materials into relevant languages and 24-hour access to translation and interpreter services).

___ Develop a system to monitor policy compliance.

___ Revise policies and practices, as necessary.

Provide leadership in community initiatives to combat violence against women:

___ Ensure coordinated response and collaboration with other justice agencies and other relevant service providers. Develop inter-agency agreements as appropriate.

___ Participate in community task forces or other structures that respond to violence against women.

___ Recognize and support community-based advocacy programs as primary victim service providers.

___ Promote community education and zero tolerance for violence against women.

Sexual Assault Investigation Protocol

Det. Sgt. Dave Parker

DRAFT
2/25/05

Intake Phase

- Report Received:

- Dispatch Generated Report
- Advocacy Generated Report
- Office of Children's Services Generated Report
- School District Generated Report
- Officer/Detective Generated Report

- SART Triage Decision - Decision made by Supervisor of Special Victims Unit. All questions must be answered positively to proceed with the exam:

Did the sexual assault occur within the last 96 hours?

Was there penetration, the possibility of fluid evidence transfer and/or the possibility of documentable oral, genital or anal injuries?

Is the victim willing to cooperate with the SART interview and examination as well as the investigation?

- Case Detective Assigned

If case is to be actively worked.

Post-It Fax Note	7571	Date	2/25/05	# of pages	3
To	Lawrence Wickersham	From	APD		
Call Dept	San Bruno	Call			
Phone #		Phone #			
Fax #	907-465-3871	Fax #	(907) 756-8638		

Evidence Gathering Phase

- SART Interview and examination

Interview conducted in the presence of an advocate, SANE nurse by the case detective.

Examination conducted by SANE nurse in presence of advocate with the patient's permission.

SART process completed with discharge instructions by SANE nurse, final detail clarification and investigation plan by detective all in the presence of the advocate.

- Suspect evidence collection.

If suspect is known to the victim:

Decision must be made as to whether a "Glass" wire or an immediate in-custody interview and search warrant authorized suspect protocol kit will yield the most evidence.

If suspect is unknown to the victim, in custody or alerted to police

Investigation:

Immediate in-custody interview and search warrant authorized suspect protocol kit.

- Scene evidence collection.

Decision must be made as to whether the scene can be effectively processed by Patrol, if detective assistance is needed, or if the Major Crime Scene Team needs to process the scene.

Scenes are searched by authority of written consent to search if it is the victim's residence/vehicle and by authority of search warrant if it is the suspect's or other person's residence/vehicle. No warrant is necessary for scenes which are on public land or premises open to public.

Investigation Phase

- Obtain and serve "Glass" warrants

Decision must be made as to whether warrants will be served telephonically or face-to-face. Selection of time of service and place of service are considered.

- Additional physical evidence is identified and secured.

This is done by authority of search warrant if necessary.

- Arrange processing of Sex Assault Protocol Kits and other evidence seized at State Crime Lab.

- Witnesses are questioned.

If they are expected to be hostile, they can be questioned by authority of "Glass" warrant by victim or acquaintance prior to police contact.

- Suspect contacted and interviewed/interrogated.

Prosecution Phase

- Arrest:

If arrest is made on Probable Cause:

Case is compiled and presented along with Statement of Probable Cause is made to District Attorney immediately.

If arrest is made by Arrest Warrant:

Arrest Warrant is prepared, presented to the Court and placed into APSIN and/or served. Case is compiled and presented along with Arrest Warrant to District Attorney immediately.

If District Attorney is consulted prior to arrest decision:

Case is compiled and presented to District Attorney for review. District Attorney will prepare Charging Document for detective to present to the Court along with Arrest Warrant.

- Grand Jury hearing is arranged by the District Attorney.

Detective assists the District Attorney in locating and serving subpoenas to victim, witnesses.

Detective testifies in Grand Jury.

True Bill is issued by Grand Jury.

- Pre-trial:

Case Detective works with District Attorney to address Defense motions.

Case Detective attends all hearings.

Case Detective provides District Attorney with all discovery requests

Case Detective organizes and displays all evidence for District Attorney and Defense Attorney review.

- Trial:

Case Detective assists District Attorney through all phases of the trial.

Suzanne Mullen

From: Dean NV Westlake [d_westlake@hotmail.com]

Sent: Friday, July 01, 2005 1:51 PM

Subject: SB 134

Hey Folks,

What with Matt Owens working in Nome as a Police officer in years past, I thought you would be interested in this bill.

Senate Bill 134 can change policing practices and see to it there is professional oversight over all Police Officers in the State of Alaska, providing the respective city does not exclude itself from this provision.

Talking to my friends throughout rural Alaska, there is a common thread of concern regarding police (in)action. It would appear that an outside governing body would be the most appropriate action to address problems we have with Law Enforcement.

Basically, what this bill will do is make it possible for the Police Standards Council to step in to insure that the Police Officer is performing up to standards. At the bottom of the page SB134; *1-2, you will see

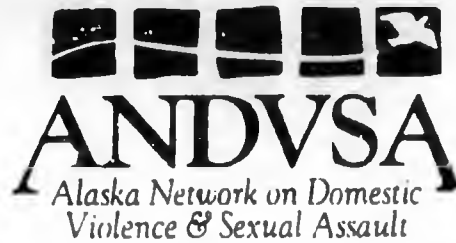
(1) delivering the results of the investigation to the prosecutor; (2) investigating standards adopted in (1) of this subsection and, if the council finds that an officer or revoke a certificate issued under AS 18.65.240 or require

If you want change folks; you will have to get the word out that we want Senate Bill 134 signed into law. I am urging you; my friends who want to make a difference, to contact your legislators to ask them for their support of this bill.

Hunt hard; shoot straight; share.

Nunathaaq

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Sitka Office
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Phone: (907) 747-7545
Fax: (907) 747-7547

April 13, 2006

The Honorable Senator Con Bunde
State Senate
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Bunde:

The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault supports Senate Bill 134 – An act relating to a pilot project to review and investigate certain complaints from victims of sexual assault in the first degree or sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree concerning actions of justice agencies. We also fully support the Office of Victims' Rights reviewing and investigating those complaints. It is my hope that we will glean some very valuable data that may guide us in charting a trajectory that produces efficient and effective future legislation that better serves victims of sexual assault.

Thank you so much for putting this legislation forward. I look forward to continuing our working relationship on behalf of victims and survivors.

Please let me know how I may be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Peggy Brown
Executive Director

Member Programs

Anchorage AWAC, AWRC, STAR Barrow AWIC Bethel TWC Cordova CFRC Dillingham SAFE Fairbanks IAC
Homer SPHH Juneau AWARE Kenai LeeShore Center Ketchikan WISH Kodiak KWRC Kotzebue MECC
Nome BSWG Palmer AFS Seward SCS Sitka SAIV Unalaska USAIV Valdez AVV

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Each of us has stake in seeking justice

By SUSAN SULLIVAN and MARY ANNE HENRY

(Published: April 25, 2006)

Alaska's rate for many violent crimes is among the highest in the nation. If you have not been a victim of a crime yourself, it's likely that you have a relative, friend or neighbor who has been.

Crime has a devastating impact on victims, survivors, neighborhoods and society. Crime continually threatens our individual and collective sense of safety and security.

Victims and witnesses look to our legal system for justice, but the aftermath of a violent crime can be the worst possible time to try to understand such a complex and perplexing structure. For too long, crime victims were essentially left out of the criminal justice system. Victims had no rights. They were excluded from proceedings; they were kept in the dark about the status of their cases and had no role to play in seeking justice.

The victims' rights movement gained national prominence when President Reagan declared the first National Crime Victims' Rights Week in 1981. Alaska has been at the forefront of that movement ever since.

Nonprofits such as Victims for Justice and Mothers Against Drunk Driving began assisting victims of violent crime in the early 1980s. The Alaska Legislature passed , pioneering victims' rights legis'ation.

In 1994, Alaskans overwhelmingly voted to amend the Alaska Constitution, establishing a number of rights for crime victims. Those rights include:

- to be treated with dignity, respect and fairness during all phases of the criminal and juvenile justice process;
- to be protected from the accused through appropriate bail conditions;
- to be present at all criminal or juvenile proceedings where the accused has a right to be present;
- to have prompt disposition of the charges against the accused;
- to be heard at bail hearings, at sentencing and at any proceeding where the accused's release from custody is considered;
- to get restitution from the offender; and
- to be informed of the accused's escape or release from custody before or after conviction.

Despite these guarantees, victims often met resistance when they attempted to assert their rights. In 2001, the Alaska Legislature did what no other state had done by creating the Office of Victims

Rights. The agency is staffed by attorneys to provide legal representation to crime victims when their constitutionally protected rights are denied.

Today in Alaska, many private groups continue the important work of informing victims of their rights and offer a wide range of services. Prosecutors recognize that victims and witnesses are important to holding offenders accountable. The state Violent Crimes Compensation Board provides financial assistance to victims. Victim Information Notification Everyday (VINE) provides vital information to victims, such as when the offender in their case is released.

Each of these organizations has a unique and vital role to play in ensuring that crime victims are treated with respect, are recognized as key participants within our systems of justice and are afforded services to help them in the aftermath of crime.

Many challenges remain, however. There are still crime victims who are not informed of their rights, not engaged as active participants in our criminal-justice system, or whose court cases languish three and four years after the crime.

There are still crime victims who remain unaware of a variety of supportive services that can provide help, hope and healing in the aftermath of crime.

There are still crime victims who suffer immeasurable physical, emotional and financial losses, who still wait and wait to receive court-ordered restitution payments from their perpetrators.

Each of the nonprofit organizations who serve victims, every agency charged with seeking justice, and each of us in the community, have a stake in ensuring that victims' rights are vigorously defended and implemented. This week, as we acknowledge the 26th recognition since the first National Crime Victims' Week was observed, let's take to heart the 2006 theme "Strength in Unity," and join together to make Alaska's landmark rights for victims a reality.

If you, or someone you know, is a victim of crime, you can seek help. If you care about justice and safety, you can help by supporting victims' assistance agencies in the community.

Susan Sullivan is executive director of Victims for Justice. Mary Anne Henry is director of the Office of Victims Rights.

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