

SEXUAL ASSAULT SUPPORT SERVICES FOR INCARCERATED SURVIVORS

The [Office of Crime Victim Advocacy](#) (OCVA) provides a confidential toll-free line for an offender to access support services if he or she, or someone he or she knows, has been the victim of sexual assault or sexual abuse at any time. This line provides access to community-based confidential support services and is not a reporting line. Advocates are independent of the Department of Corrections. Calls are not recorded or monitored and do not require an offender to use his/her Personal Identification Number (PIN) when placing calls. The line does not allow callers to leave messages, but a victim advocate is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

In general, an advocate's role is to:

- Listen to a survivor's story and provide support for their safety and empowerment;
- Keep a survivor's identity and information confidential;
 - An advocate will not reveal a survivor's identity or information unless mandated by state law, federal law, court order, or by request of the survivor with a signed release of information.
- Serve as a liaison between the survivor and the Department of Corrections; and
- Inform a survivor of their rights as a victim of a crime.

Services that an advocate may provide a survivor include:

- Over-the-phone crisis intervention if they have recently experienced an assault or abuse;
- Talking with a survivor about his/her safety and help the survivor plan their continued safety;
- Explaining the different reporting options available through the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA);
- Discussing law enforcement reporting options;
- Teaching coping skills to help a survivor heal from the traumatic experience;
- Supporting a survivor at a sexual assault forensic medical examination at a community hospital;
- Supporting a survivor's ongoing assault-related medical care;
- Explaining the PREA investigation process; and
- Supporting a survivor at a law enforcement interview or hearing related to the sexual assault or abuse.

An advocate's role is NOT to:

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

Sexual Assault Support and Information Toll-Free Line

1-855-210-2087

This line should only be used for issues related to sexual assault and/or sexual abuse. Any offender who repeatedly misuses the line or threatens/harasses a PREA Support Specialist or advocate may be disciplined.

If you are not incarcerated but need the support of a crime victim advocate, please contact the Office of Crime Victim Advocacy's Direct Service Line at 1-800-822-1067 or the Washington's Information Network at 2-1-1 to help you connect with resources in your community.