



VALLEY TRAUMA CENTER

Sexual Assault Services for the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys

24 HOUR HOTLINE:

San Fernando Valley 818.886.0453 Santa Clarita Valley 661.253.0258

24 HR CRISIS TEAM

The Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) is a community-based approach to providing a sensitive, comprehensive, coordinated system of intervention and care for survivors of sexual assault. It is designed to support the survivor while reducing post-traumatic stress, improving the collection of forensic evidence, facilitating investigation, and supporting the prosecution of the perpetrator.

As no one agency can handle all of that alone, the following groups work together as a team:

- Law Enforcement
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners in a specially equipped hospital
- Crime Laboratories of both the Sheriff and LAPD
- The District Attorney's Office
- The Victim Assistance Program
- Rape Crisis Advocates
- Social Service and Mental Health Agencies

The team is designed to meet the needs of sexual assault survivors and their significant others by providing:

- Cultural competency
- Sensitive and coordinated response
- Early emotional support and advocacy
- Accessible, prompt, high quality forensic medical examinations
- Prophylaxis to protect the survivor against sexually transmitted disease
- Assessment of pregnancy risk and emergency contraception
- On-going information about investigative and criminal justice procedures
- Counseling for sexual assault survivors and their significant others
- The SART team is most often called into action when a survivor reports the assault to Law Enforcement.

After taking the initial report, the officers will determine if a forensic medical exam is appropriate. The police, who pay for the medical exam, then contact the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner and the Rape Crisis Advocate who meet the survivor and Law Enforcement at the hospital. The team then begins working together with the survivor.