



# DISABLED PERSONS PROTECTION COMMISSION (DPPC) SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE (SAR) TEAM



## PEER SUPPORT LEADERS

Peer Support Leaders (PSLs) are survivors of sexual abuse with intellectual and developmental disabilities who perform a crucial role in our program. They provide peer support by sharing their personal healing journeys and guiding victims toward trauma services. PSLs partner with Navigators to provide education and outreach to self-advocates and community organizations. Through their work, PSLs help foster a supportive network and ensure that survivors have access to the resources they need for healing.

### *PSLs are responsible for:*

- Providing 1:1 peer support to individuals who are survivors of sexual violence with I/DD.
- Co-facilitating presentations to community partners to bring awareness.

## ABOUT

The Sexual Assault Response (SAR) Team was created within the Disabled Persons Protection Commission (DPPC) to increase access to trauma services for sexual assault victims with disabilities thanks to the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA) through a Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA) grant funding. SAR provides navigation, peer support, and clinical matching services to survivors and works with them, their families, and support staff by providing information, resources, referrals, and guidance.

## KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

The SAR team's key responsibilities include:

- Informing survivors and their support networks on trauma experiences and available services.
- Assisting in accessing trauma services through warm referrals to ensure services are individualized and accessible.
- Promoting multidisciplinary, trauma-informed approaches across the state to all service providers.

## NAVIGATORS

SAR Navigators respond to all sexual abuse cases reported to DPPC's 24-hour Hotline. Navigators connect victims with essential services such as Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE), Rape Crisis Centers (RCC), legal aid, law enforcement and trauma therapy. All services through SAR are confidential, free, accessible, and dependent on the needs and timeline of the survivor.

## ADVISORY COUNCIL

The SAR Advisory Council provides crucial guidance to DPPC, enhancing SAR operations through professional and experiential insights. Council members also act as ambassadors, advocating for SAR within their networks and helping to prevent and respond to sexual violence against persons with disabilities.



# DISABLED PERSONS PROTECTION COMMISSION (DPPC) SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE (SAR) TEAM PARTNERS

## INTERFACE CLINICAL MATCHING SERVICE AT WILLIAM JAMES COLLEGE

INTERFACE helps survivors find licensed, mental health professionals for their therapeutic needs while addressing specific needs like availability, insurance, and location. INTERFACE staff work to reduce barriers in receiving trauma therapy and train professionals on working with survivors with disabilities.

**LEARN MORE:** [interface.williamjames.edu](http://interface.williamjames.edu)

## RAPE CRISIS CENTERS

Free, short-term trauma counseling around sexual violence and pathways to healing. No insurance required for services.

**LEARN MORE:** [mass.gov/info-details/rape-crisis-centers](http://mass.gov/info-details/rape-crisis-centers)

## VICTIM COMPENSATION

Provides assistance with medical and clinical needs, lost wages, and other expenses as the result of a crime.

**LEARN MORE:** [mass.gov/massachusetts-victims-of-violent-crime-compensation](http://mass.gov/massachusetts-victims-of-violent-crime-compensation)

## ABILITY:IMPACT

Provides 1:1 and group trainings around healthy relationships and boundary skills.

**LEARN MORE:** [impactboston.org](http://impactboston.org)

## STATE SERVICE PROVIDERS

### Department of Developmental Services (DDS)

[mass.gov/orgs/departments-of-developmental-services](http://mass.gov/orgs/departments-of-developmental-services)

### Department of Mental Health (DMH)

[mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-mental-health](http://mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-mental-health)

### MassAbility

[mass.gov/orgs/massability](http://mass.gov/orgs/massability)

## SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINER

A Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) conducts comprehensive forensic examinations on sexual assault victims in hospital settings 5 days or 120 hours after an assault.

**LEARN MORE:** [mass.gov/ma-sexual-assault-nurse-examiner-sane-program](http://mass.gov/ma-sexual-assault-nurse-examiner-sane-program)

## LEGAL AND CRIMINAL SERVICES

The Victim Rights Law Center (VRLC) provides free, comprehensive legal services for sexual assault victims with civil legal issues in Massachusetts.

**LEARN MORE:** [victimrights.org](http://victimrights.org)

The Disability Law Center (DLC) is a private, non-profit organization responsible for providing protection and advocacy for the rights of Massachusetts residents with disabilities.

**LEARN MORE:** [www.dlc-ma.org](http://www.dlc-ma.org)

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