



DISABLED PERSONS PROTECTION COMMISSION 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

300 Granite Street, Suite 404, Braintree, MA 02184

Website: DPPCMass.gov | Phone: (617) 727-6465 | Email: SAR.PSN@mass.gov

24-Hour Abuse Reporting Hotline: 800-426-9009

Deaf or Hard of Hearing callers, please use Video Relay Service (VRS) or MassRelay at 711

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The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS or the U.S. Government.



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

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

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

ABILITY:IMPACT

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

LEARN MORE: impactboston.org

STATE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Department of Developmental Services (DDS)

mass.gov/orgs/department-of-developmental-services

Department of Mental Health (DMH)

mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-mental-health

MassAbility

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

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

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

This project was (partially) supported by MOVA through state investments, and/or a Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA) grant from the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, and/or the Human Trafficking and Drunk Driving Trust Funds. DPPC is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation or gender identity in the provision of services.

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