**Keep In Mind**

- Advocates are here to help you. Their role is not to file a report for you, but they can give you information and can support you if **you** decide to file a report.
- Advocates may require you to sign a consent form for follow-up services.
- Facility staff may monitor, record, or overhear your conversations with advocates. You may check with the facility staff to find the most private way to speak with an advocate.
- The facility should give you information about how they monitor communication with advocates.
- Facility staff must report any known cases of sexual abuse.
- A court could require an advocate or other person listening to testify about what you and the advocate tell each other.
- If you plan to hurt yourself or someone else, the advocate may be required to report it.
- By law, an advocate has to report the abuse of a minor.

**Not all services are available at every facility; please ask your facility staff or community advocate.**

**Local Contact Information**

During your time at this facility, you can find your local contacts for PREA and victim advocacy services listed below. If you move to another facility, these contacts **may not** be the same. Please find the list of local contacts at each new facility.
What is Victim Advocacy?

A victim of sexual abuse can seek services from a rape crisis center. These community-based agencies offer advocacy services to support victims of sexual abuse. Victim advocacy is rooted in helping victims heal from sexual abuse, knowing what rights victims have, and being familiar with resources that can help victims.

Advocates are professionals who are not employees of this facility who must meet certain training requirements and other criteria to work with sexual abuse victims.

Your Rights as a Victim of Sexual Abuse

- The right to be treated with dignity and respect.
- The right to report privately, safely, and in different ways.
- The right to have an advocate or support person available for a forensic medical exam.
- The right to get help from trained medical and mental health care professionals at no cost to you.
- The right to have an advocate or support person available to support you through the investigation process.
- The right to submit a victim impact statement or report to the court.

What Can an Advocate Help You With?

An advocate can:
- Listen to your story and support you.
- Give you information to make choices and help you look at next steps.
- Inform you of your rights as a victim.
- Inform you of other resources and services that are available to you.

What Can an Advocate Not Help You With?

Examples of what an advocate CANNOT help you with include:
- Provide legal advice
- Make decisions for you
- Tell you whether to report the sexual abuse or not
- Investigate a crime
- Demand the facility change their rules or your housing assignment
- Contact your family or friends for you
- Provide therapy or mental health treatment services

Specific Services**

An advocate might:
- Talk with you over the phone or by mail, if you have been sexually abused while confined.
- Help you with ways to deal with past or present sexual abuse, or if you know someone who has been abused.
- Discuss your safety and help you plan to stay safe while confined.
- Explain your PREA reporting options.
- Support you at a forensic medical exam at a community hospital.
- Talk with the facility about medical and mental health services you can use if you want.
- Advocate that the facility work with you to get services for your ongoing medical and mental health needs related to the abuse.
- Give you information about services the facility or others in the community can provide for follow-up.
- Go over the facility’s PREA investigation process with you.
- Give you support during the investigation.