

What is Victim Advocacy?

Advocacy services are provided by community-based rape crisis centers to help victims of sexual abuse. A victim of sexual abuse can seek these services to support their healing, to learn about their rights, and to learn about resources that can help them.

How Advocates Can Help Sexual Abuse Victims

An advocate can:

- Listen and provide support.
- Give information about options and next steps.
- Refer to other resources and services that are available.
- Inform you of your rights as a victim, which include the right to:
 - *Be treated with dignity and respect.*
 - *Report privately, safely, and in multiple ways.*
 - *Have an advocate or support person available for a forensic medical exam.*
 - *Get medical and mental health care at no cost to you.*

An advocate might:

- Talk with you over the phone or by mail correspondence.
- Help you with ways to deal with past or present sexual abuse.
- Discuss your safety and help you plan to stay safe while confined.
- Explain your PREA reporting options and the facility's investigation process.

An advocate CANNOT:

- Provide legal advice
- Make decisions for you
- Tell you whether or not to report
- Investigate a crime
- Demand the facility change its rules or your housing assignment
- Contact your family or friends

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.

*Not all services are available at every facility. For more information about victim advocacy and the specific services available to you as a victim of sexual abuse, please see **NCCASA's brochure "What Is Victim Advocacy? Information for Incarcerated Victims of Sexual Abuse"** or contact your local community advocate.*