What You Need to Know About WASAC Services

The Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center (WASAC) exists to assist survivors of sexual assault and their family and friends. All services at WASAC are free of charge. As you utilize services, you need to know about the policy on confidentiality and recordkeeping. If you have any questions about this information, please contact the office at (316) 263-0185 or email advocate@wichitasac.com.

Confidentiality—It is the policy of WASAC to hold confidential all communications, observations and information between survivors seeking services and advocates. This includes information about whether or not you are receiving services at WASAC and what services you receive. There are three exceptions to this policy:

<u>When you give valid permission to WASAC to release information</u>—This requires a signed WASAC Release of Information form that you have completed with an advocate. You must agree to the release of information and specific information to be released.

<u>When required by law</u>—Any staff or volunteer that is licensed as a social worker, counselor, or therapist is required to report child abuse and neglect, including child sexual abuse.

When required by court mandate—A subpoena is not the same as a court mandate.

Recordkeeping—WASAC keeps limited written documentation that is required for statistical and funding purposes. WASAC does not keep records related to survivor-advocate contact. No file is maintained on participants.

Non-Discrimination Policy—WASAC will not unlawfully discriminate against a program participant because of race, disability, color, gender, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, veteran status, family status, military status, or political affiliation.

Any person, who believes that another person's action or words constitutes discrimination, harassment, or in any other way violates the Non-Discrimination Policy, should report or complain about the situation as soon as possible. The report or complaint should be made to the Executive Director, the WASAC Board Chair, and/or the Board Human Resources Committee Chair. Any person who believes that she or he has been subject of discrimination may also file the complaint directly with the Kansas Human Rights Commission and/or the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and should do so within 180 days of the alleged discrimination.

Feedback—We are interested in any feedback you may have regarding WASAC services. You are welcome to contact the Executive Director or the WASAC Board Chair to provide input. In addition, the Kansas Office of the Attorney General requires the following information be provided to you:

"This agency, along with the Office of the Attorney General, is interested in improving services available to victims in Kansas. If you have any suggestions or complaints about the services provided to you and wish to share them with the Office of the Attorney General, please call 1-800-828-9745 or complete the survey forms available at www.ksag.org."

Crime Victims' Rights—As a victim of a crime you have rights afforded by the Kansas Bill of Rights for Crime Victims and information on Crime Victims Compensation. You may find this information on the Attorney General's website www.ksag.org or by asking your advocate.

Website: www.wichitasac.com Crisis Line: (316) 263-3002 Toll Free: (877) 927-2248