



HOTLINE: 888-802-8890

UPDATED COVID-19 Hospital Response Protocol Outline

6/1/2021

Advocates are now available for in-person advocacy response for sexual violence cases that present in the Emergency Department starting **June 1, 2021**. Pursuant to Illinois statute and our SASETA Rape Crisis Center MOU, Advocates will be allowed to enter the hospital and provide support to victims as long as they have not screened positive for COVID.

- Advocates will continue to provide services via phone for victims who present with COVID symptoms, under investigation for COVID, or if the Emergency Department determines it is unsafe and reinstates a no visitor policy.

Advocates will call the hospital and speak with either the Charge Nurse or the Nurse who is working with the victim to confirm in-person or phone services. The victim must consent or decline to services by speaking directly to the Advocate.

- Advocates will continue to provide the following information:
 - Answer any questions or concerns the victim may have
 - Evidence Collection Consent (Options A, B, & C*)
 - Hospital Billing Protocol
 - Payment Voucher
- Crime Victims Compensation

REMINDERS:

- Advocates will be given permission by all hospitals to speak directly to the victim. **The victim has the right to decline or speak to the advocate whether the advocate is there in-person or providing services via phone.**
- Our advocates are here to help the hospital staff as well, any questions regarding evidence collection will be happily answered.
- Medical staff must let Advocates know if a patient has screened positive for COVID, is under investigation for COVID, or there is an expected exposure.
 - Language to avoid violating HIPAA and let Advocate know phone advocacy is needed:
 - Passed or did not pass COVID screening
 - Requesting phone advocacy