

Guidance for Providers Assisting Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence During the COVID-19 Pandemic

April 30, 2020

Domestic Violence & Dating Violence

During these times of isolation and additional stress, unhealthy relationships can become increasingly dangerous. It is important to implement screening and intervention policies to help gauge whether patients are living in a safe environment and provide appropriate referrals in the event they are not.

Recommended Tools:

Confidentiality, Universal Education & Empowerment, Support (CUES): An Evidenced-Based Intervention: <https://ipvhealth.org/health-professionals/educate-providers/>

Danger Assessment, includes revisions related to choking/strangulation: <https://www.dangerassessment.org/DATools.aspx>

Referrals:

- Kansas Sexual and Domestic Violence Service Providers are open and providing services to victims and survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The list of providers and their 24/7 hotline contact information is available here: <https://www.kcsdv.org/find-help/in-kansas/dv-sa-services-map/>
- [Kansas Crisis Hotline](#), 1-888-END-ABUSE, provides confidential support 24/7 to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. This resource can also connect survivors in Kansas with resources in their community that can provide safe shelter, case management, court advocacy and counseling services.
- [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#) advocates are available 24/7 to talk confidentially with anyone experiencing domestic violence, seeking resources or information, or questioning unhealthy aspects of their relationship. Call 1-800-799-7233. If a patient is unable to speak safely, they can log onto thehotline.org or text LOVEIS to 22522.
- [Strong Hearts Native Helpline](#) is a dating and domestic violence helpline for American Indians and Alaska Natives, providing culturally appropriate, confidential support 7am-10pm CT, Monday-Friday. Patients can call 1-844-762-8483 or learn more at strongheartshelpline.org.

Sexual Assault and Forensic Exams

Forensic Exam Guidance:

Guidance from the International Association of Forensic Nurses on providing exams during the pandemic: <https://www.forensicnurses.org/news/493334/-COVID-19-a-message-to-our-members.htm>

Guidance from the National Children's Alliance Covid-19 Resource Center:
<https://learn.nationalchildrensalliance.org/covid#guidance>

Referrals:

- If a patient is interested in obtaining a sexual assault forensic exam and you do not offer those services, please visit <https://www.kcsdv.org/find-help/in-kansas/sane/> for a list of Kansas Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) programs or contact your local hospital emergency department.
- [Kansas Crisis Hotline](#), 1-888-END-ABUSE, provides confidential support 24/7 to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. This resource can also connect survivors in Kansas with resources in their community that can provide safe shelter, case management, court advocacy and counseling services.
- [National Sexual Assault Hotline](#) offers confidential, anonymous support 24/7 to individuals who are experiencing, or have experienced, sexual assault. Patients can call 800-656-HOPE or chat online at online.rainn.org.

