

# **SAFESTAR**

SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAM, SUPPORT, TRAINING, ACCESS, RESOURCES



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# SAFESTAR: The Project

SAFESTAR is a unique model of healthcare that trains community-based, lay healthcare providers (such as midwives, traditional healers, community health representatives, etc.) to provide medical/forensic examinations for Indian victims of sexual assault.



# SAFESTAR: The Project

- Designed by experts in Indian Country health care, advocacy and criminal justice, the SAFESTAR project is:
  - Community Developed
  - Community Implemented
  - Community Integrated
  - Public Health Supported
  - Individual and Community Focused



### SAFESTAR: Our Mission

 To avoid further trauma to all sexual assault survivors



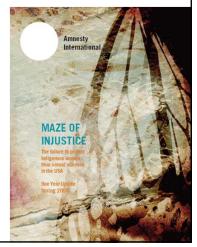


# Why do we need SAFESTARs?

 When someone is sexually assaulted on tribal lands, access to a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) who perform healthcare exams and collect evidence from a victim's body is not available in most of the Tribal communities.



facilities found that in areas served by facilities that do not provide emergency services for rape victims, women can face a round trip of up to 150 miles in order to reach a facility where the forensic examination can be performed." – Maze of Injustice, Amnesty International, 2007





#### **SAFESTAR Purpose:**

- Address the lack of sexual assault nurse examiners in Indian Country
- Address the relatively low number of tribal and federal prosecutions of sexual assault crimes committed against Native women



#### SAFESTAR Purpose

- Use Traditional healthcare delivery systems
- Train how to preserve forensic evidence that may be important for prosecution
- Provide healthcare to victims who have limited access



### Who is a SAFESTAR?

 A person who is specially trained to provide health care to sexual assault survivors and who demonstrates competency and respect when conducting the medical/forensic exam



# What is the Role of a SAFESTAR?

#### Role:

- Provide a compassionate and sensitive approach to sexual assault care
- Provide timely healthcare examination with evidence collection, as appropriate
- Provide referral for follow-up care and counseling
- Provide testimony in court as needed

### Characteristics of a SAFESTAR:

- •Non judgmental
- Compassionate
- $\bullet Respectful$
- Culturally aware of tribal community
- Maintains confidentiality





### **SAFESTAR Training**

- Culturally appropriate
- Establish or enhance the attitudes, knowledge and skills to perform an exam



# **SAFESTAR Training**

This training will teach you how to:

Determine if a victim of sexual assault needs to be sent to a hospital or clinic for immediate treatment





# You will learn how to:

Perform an exam to check a victim for injuries and, if the victim chooses to, collect evidence from his/her body







# You will learn how to:

Create a written
report
(documentation)
describing a
victim's sexual
assault

SAFESTAR SEXUAL ASSAULT MEDICAL/FORENSIC RECORD

Location of Examination:	
Address:	
Date of Examination:	
Full Name of Patient:	Date of Birth
Address:	
Brought in By:	
Others Present	
Date of Assault:	Time:
Location of Assault	S = 91
Patient Choosing:	
To report the crime and authorize release of evide	ence to law enforcement
Law Enforcement Agency	
Case #:	
Officer Name:	
Officer ID:	
The 'Anonymous Sexual Assault' Option	
Kit#:	
Medical/forensic exam without kit	



# You will learn how to:

Provide medicine to prevent sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy





# You will learn how to:

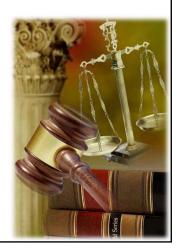
Make referrals to help in healing the mind, body, and spirit after the assault





#### You will learn how to:

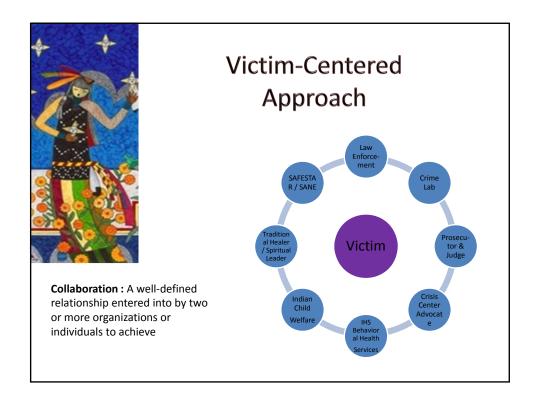
Testify in a court of law should the offender be prosecuted for the sexual assault





# **SAFESTAR Training:**

- SAFESTARs are tribal community members that are part of a multidisciplinary team
- The success of the multidisciplinary team is dependent upon its ability to work together to provide the best possible outcome for the sexual assault victim
- Most important is safety for the victim and surrounding the victim with holistic care





# Working together to end violence