Utilizing the MDT to Investigate & Prosecute

Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

In Indian Country
The Salt River Family Advocacy Center

Founded in 2009, the FAC's mission is to provide a secure and healing environment, utilizing a collaborative, multi-disciplinary team to reduce further harm to children and other vulnerable victims, while honoring the cultural values and traditions of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.
Our Philosophy

**COMFORT**
The victim is paramount.

**INVESTIGATE**
Strive to limit trauma.

**COUNSEL**
Follow-up care is key.
Comfort: Dignity for the Victim

- Shower, Food
- Clean Clothes
- Safety, Privacy
Comfort: Dignity for the Victim
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<table>
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<th>WHY COMFORT FIRST?</th>
<th>WHAT'S THE BENEFIT?</th>
<th>WHO'S IN CHARGE?</th>
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<td>Victims deserve respect and personal dignity.</td>
<td>A scared victim who is in pain cannot be successfully interviewed.</td>
<td>It's a team effort, based on rapport, resources, and availability.</td>
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CULTURAL surroundings will help victims feel safe & comfortable
Investigate: Multi-Disciplinary Approach

PROSECUTOR
DETECTIVE
VICTIM ADVOCATE
FAC STAFF
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
PROBATION
(CPS, EDUCATION)
(NURSE EXAMINER)
Aim to interview the victim only once.

This reduces trauma and avoids impeachment issues at trial.
Choose a neutral, friendly location for the interview.

The location should be non-suggestive and should make the victim feel safe, which will encourage the victim to disclose.
Use audio and video recording equipment.

Preserving the interview is vital.
Prepare for the interview, but don't script it.

The pre-interview discussion with MDT members is vital in ensuring that the interviewer obtains all necessary information, but if it sounds too scripted, the victim may not respond.
The pre-interview discussion is the multi-disciplinary component of your investigation.

Discuss the overall purpose of the interview, topics to be covered, vital details, and what you already know.
Continue to meet, as often as needed.

As the case develops, it's important to meet so that every department is on the same page.
Counsel: Aftercare and Beyond

Are internal services available?
Who will make referrals?
Who will lead follow-up efforts?
Identify

WHO IS THE CARE PROVIDER? DOES THE TRIBE HAVE SERVICES AVAILABLE? IF NOT, CAN THE TRIBE FUND SERVICES ELSEWHERE? ARE THERE FREE CARE PROVIDERS?
Strategize

How can the team facilitate access to counseling and other aftercare needs?
Be Specific

REFER FOR SPECIFIC SERVICES (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, NEEDS OF CHILDREN, ELDER ABUSE). DON'T FORGET TO MAKE NEW REFERRALS AS NEEDS ARISE (AS TRIAL DATES APPROACH, IF AN OFFENDER IS RELEASED FROM CUSTODY, ETC).
Be Consistent

Your jobs aren't over after the first referral. Victims need to feel supported throughout the process, so keep in touch and adapt to the victim as her needs change.
Remember

Some victims aren't able to cooperate at first due to their personal situations and family dynamics. Be responsive and consistent anyway; they'll come to you when they can.
Contact Us

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thanks
FOR YOUR TIME