

Prosecutorial Success: The Impact of Victim's Advocacy

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Section 1

Introduction

Every 98 seconds, someone in the United States is sexually assaulted (RAINN^c, 2018). Every 8 minutes, that victim is a child (RAINN^c, 2018). This calculation estimates that roughly 570 people in the United States are sexually abused every single day (RAINN^c, 2018). Meanwhile, only 6 out of every 1,000 perpetrators will see legal reprimand (RAINN^c, 2018). The process for which a criminal prosecution is able to function successfully relies on many different participants. These participants can include the law enforcement officers, whose jobs it is to meticulously investigate crimes. They include willing and able district or county prosecuting attorneys that possess the stamina and expertise to gather information on the case, charge the crime, collect witnesses, and argue in favor of personal and public safety during trial. They include defense attorneys with, again, the stamina and expertise to protect their clients from a wrongful conviction or cruel and unusual punishment. They include judges who are stern their impartial evaluation of the law to ensure these crimes can be tried fairly. They include the individuals accused of committing the crime. They include the jury of the defendant's peers, members of the community, to evaluate the facts and apply them to the law.

These participants make up a crucial part of a coordinated community response to combat violent crimes like sexual assault (Camacho & Alarid, 2008). This response, too, has a significant effect on survivor experience and therefore their willingness to participate in a criminal trial which contributes to prosecutorial success (Camacho & Alarid, 2008). It has been proven, in multiple studies, that when a diverse set of service providers are introduced to a victim, early after their victimization, their contribution to prosecutorial success increases (Camacho & Alarid, 2008) (Taylor – Dunn, 2015).

A successful prosecution of a criminal case often relies on the role of a victim. Victim witness cooperation in the prosecution of sexual assault is crucial to a successful case (Taylor-Dunn, 2015). More recently, the influence of victim advocacy has also been noted as influential participants in the successful prosecution of criminal sexual assault cases (Taylor-Dunn, 2015). Due to the historical societal treatment and reactions to disclosure of sexual assault, victims often feel battered and blamed for coming forward (Ullman et al., 2017). Victims' advocates provide necessary emotional support for victims throughout their experience to combat the trauma related to these harmful reactions and narratives that have lived on for so long (Bennett, Goodman, & Dutton, 1999). Cooperation that takes place among advocates, police, and prosecuting attorneys have also improved the overall experience of the prosecutorial setting for victims (Bennett, Goodman, & Dutton, 1999).

Many prosecutions can and will proceed even with an unwilling victim witness, which has the possibility of contributing to the re-traumatization that a victim may experience, as well as the quality of case argued (Dawson et al., 2001). A growing intolerance for interpersonal violence, including sexual assault, has motivated prosecuting attorneys to charge these cases, with or without cooperation from the victims (Bennett, Goodman, & Dutton, 1999).

The role of advocacy will ensure the victim receives adequate care and support throughout a criminal proceeding will increase the likelihood for cooperation in the prosecution of these cases (Bennett, Goodman, & Dutton, 1999). Sexual violence is most frequently perpetrated by someone that the victim knows (Department of Justice, 2015). The Department of Justice (2015) notes that in adult cases of sexual assault, the victim knows their perpetrator in some capacity at least 70% of the time. Cases of sexual and domestic violence create a form of trauma that is so intimate in nature that a necessary level of care and support throughout every

proceeding is absolutely necessary for a victim's emotional recovery (Dawson et al., 2001). Research has indicated that the criminal justice system focuses so heavily on the prosecution of rightful offenders that its victims are at risk of falling through the cracks. This negligence contributes to the likelihood that victims are re-traumatized by the criminal justice process (Dawson et al., 2001). Therefore, the utilization of advocates throughout the criminal justice process will reduce this re-victimization that they may experience (Taylor-Dunn, 2015).

Disclaimer:

This research will tradeoff in the uses of the term *abuse* and *assault* when referring to sexual victimizations. This research will maintain the constant use of the term *victim*, as this is how individuals who have been sexually assaulted are referred to in the criminal justice setting. This label does not reflect the researcher's feelings or attitudes towards this population.

Purpose/Intent of Research

The purpose of this research is to evaluate the role of a sexual assault victim in the reporting and prosecution of sexual assault cases. This examination will include the initial disclosure, hospital presentation, police reports, the criminal trial process, and after care. Throughout this examination, this research will cite the legal codes that detail the charges of sexual assault crimes. It will also include the legal codes that outline the various rights that a victim of sexual assault has throughout the process and how these rights came to be. Specifically, a right that will be examined and discussed in detail is the right for a victim of sexual assault to have a victim's advocate present with them throughout the criminal justice process (Justia, 2011).

This research will introduce literature on the benefits of victim advocacy services. In this examination, this research will discuss the history of advocacy, beginning with the grassroots organizations that started the victim service movement. This will lead to the discussion of the establishment of advocacy programs, how they earned their funding, training requirements, sustainability efforts, changes in federal and state laws and how each of these things have been impacted by various presidential administrations.

This research will examine secondary resources and statistics that are relevant to introduction and maintenance of advocacy. They will also provide a detailed summary of sexual assault prevalence, not only in the United States, but worldwide as well. This research will reiterate the influence of trauma on sexual assault victims. This research will use secondary resources to introduce literature on the role of sexual assault nurse examiners as well. Through this examination, historical reporting barriers will be discussed, as this point is the overarching theme of why victims' advocacy is necessary for a victim's emotional health and to ensure that a victim's rights are obeyed and protected as well.

This research will also address the implementation of coordinated community response and multidisciplinary teams. Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) are an example of multidisciplinary teams that focus on the investigation, treatment, and services related to sexual assault (Burgess et al., 2006). In this research, the effectiveness of these teams will also be evaluated. This evaluation will address the improvements that SARTs make toward legal outcomes, victim help-services, medical treatment, and aftercare (Greeson et al., 2012). These improvements relate to the use of advocacy across all scopes of a victim's experience. This will also address the barriers that SARTs face as well. Some of these barriers include agency and organization participation, goals, confidentiality, and role confusion (Greeson et al., 2012).

This research will also examine the increased likelihood for victim cooperation when victim advocacy services are utilized. This research will also evaluate the utilization of advocacy throughout the criminal justice process and the methods in which advocates decrease re-victimization. Throughout this research, the necessity of victim advocacy services in every community will be argued. Through this argument, this research will provide insight on the level of training advocates are required to have to work with victims in a criminal justice setting, as well as the impact the profession has on victim testimony and evidence collection from the very beginning. The significance of this research will be its appeal to communities and criminal justice systems that do not currently have an advocacy center in their community.

Overall, this research will move to improve the overall understanding of sexual assault based trauma. While trauma is a unique experience, in and of itself, trauma that results from sexual violence is especially unique and particularly harmful. This trauma creates difficulties, not only for the victim, but for the victim's family, friends, and peers. Through this understanding, this research also hopes to suggest the need for victims' advocacy to better improve victim experience, reduce re-traumatization or re-victimization, improve relationships and cooperation with victims, law enforcement, and prosecuting attorneys.

Section Two

Definitions

Sexual assault, attempted sexual assault, rape, and attempted rape are several terms that will be discussed throughout this research in order to narrow the specific victimizations in which sexual assault victims' advocacy effects. All definitions, legal codes, criminal conduct, victims' rights, and confidentiality statutes will derive from the Iowa Legal Code. In order for this research to provide some perspective when evaluating a victim's experience, victims' advocacy services, and sexual assault prevalence, other state's legal code sections may be compared. In order to properly define general terms such as perpetrator, disclosure, advocacy, and grooming, this research will utilize resources like the dictionary while also comparing the internal definitions that advocacy agencies use. This comparison will provide significant perspective in contrasting general knowledge of these subjects to the intern understanding among victim service agencies. According to Iowa Code Section 709, there are several different forms of sexual abuse (referred to in this research as sexual assault) as well as several mitigating layers of similar crimes. For the purpose of this research, the definition for several of these crimes will be defined. The importance and significance of outlining the definitions associated with sexual assault and advocacy is this: these definitions widen the scope of what is typically misunderstood to be a very limited number of acts that are classified as sexual assault. This scope, typically, only includes rape or sodomy, when realistically, there are so many more that would trigger the right for victim's advocacy. For those reasons, an in-depth exploration of the codes associated with the act of sexual assault is necessary.

Sexual Abuse (also known as sexual assault)

Sexual abuse is defined under Iowa Code § 709.1 as

“Any sex act between persons is sexual abuse by either of the persons when the act is performed with the other person in any of the following circumstances:

1. The act is done by force or against the will of the other. If the consent or acquiescence of the other is procured by threats of violence toward any person or if the act is done while the other is under the influence of a drug inducing sleep or is otherwise in a state of unconsciousness, the act is done against the will of the other.
2. Such other person is suffering from a mental defect or incapacity which precludes giving consent, or lacks the mental capacity to know the right and wrong of conduct in sexual matters.
3. Such other person is a child.”

This section of the code further defines the legal definition of incapacitation, which is broken down into three sections, mental incapacitation, physically helpless, and physically incapacitated (Iowa Code § 709.1A). Mental incapacitation is caused by influence of a narcotic, anesthetic, or intoxicating substance (Iowa Code § 709.1A). Physical helplessness is the inability to communicate unwillingness due to a person being unconscious, asleep, or otherwise physically limited (Iowa Code § 709.1A). Physical incapacitation is the bodily impairment or handicap that substantially limits the person’s ability to resist or flee (Iowa Code § 709.1A).

Sexual abuse is broken down into three different codes, sexual abuse in the first degree, second degree, and third degree. Sexual Abuse in the first degree relates to a person who commits another serious injury while in a sexual abuse is committed. (Iowa Code § 709.2). Sexual abuse in the second degree references the committing of a sexual abuse while using a

weapon or substantial threat, the victim is under the age of twelve, or the person is aided or abetted by one or more persons while the sex act is committed (Iowa Code § 709.3). Sexual abuse in the third degree references all sexual abuse that is perpetrated by force between persons who are not married, the victim is a child or under the legal age of consent, the victim is intoxicated by a substance and the perpetrator is aware of that intoxication, or the victim is mental incapacitated, physically incapacitated, or physically helpless (Iowa Code § 709.4).

When referring to the position of sexual assault advocacy, this scope of crimes is the most frequently encountered is sexual assault (IACASA, 2017). The reason for this is because of the wide range of conduct that is included under this code. There are several degrees of sexual abuse in the state of Iowa, which allows a funnel of several different acts to be labeled as such (Iowa Code § 709.1).

Lascivious acts with a child

Lascivious acts with a child is a subsection of sexual abuse (Iowa Code § 709.8). The code reads as follows:

“1. It is unlawful for any person sixteen years of age or older to perform any of the following acts with a child with or without the child’s consent unless married to each other, for the purpose of arousing or satisfying the sexual desires of either of them:

- a. Fondle or touch the pubes or genitals of a child.
- b. Permit or cause a child to fondle or touch the person’s genitals or pubes.
- c. Cause the touching of the person’s genitals to any part of the body of a child.
- d. Solicit a child to engage in a sex act or solicit a person to arrange a sex act with a child.

e. Inflict pain or discomfort upon a child or permit a child to inflict pain or discomfort on the person,” (Iowa Code § 709.8).

Indecent exposure

Indecent exposure is a subsection of sexual abuse (Iowa Code § 709.9). The code reads as follows:

“A person who exposes the person’s genitals or pubes to another not the person’s spouse, or who commits a sex act in the presence of or view of a third person, commits a serious misdemeanor, if:

1. The person does so to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires of either party; and
2. The person knows or reasonably should know that the act is offensive to the viewer.”

Legacy Definition of Rape

The major change to the “big picture” of sexual assault is the recent change of the federal definition of sexual assault and rape. In 2012, the Department of Justice announced a change to the definition of rape for the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program’s Summary Reporting System (Summary) (FBI, 2014). This change updated the definition of rape from “the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will.” (FBI, 2014). This definition created open, and often incorrect, interpretation from law enforcement agencies which excluded several sex offenses. These offenses include oral or anal penetration, penetration with objects, and rapes of males (FBI, 2014). The new definition from the Department of Justice defines rape as “penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral

penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim,” (FBI, 2014). This definition became effective in January 2013.

While the definition has changed the Uniform Crime Reporting Summary, the definition of rape has only slightly changed in its effect of the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) (FBI, 2014). NIBRS defines rape as the carnal knowledge of a *person*, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity. NIBRS aggregate three sex offences into Rape in the Summary for publication to include rape, as defined above, as well as sodomy, defined as oral or anal sexual intercourse, and sexual assault with an object, the use of an object or instrument to penetrate the genital or anal opening of another person (FBI, 2014).

Rape (USDOJ)

According to the United States Department of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistical report written by Rachel Morgan and Grace Kena (2017) *rape* is defined as:

“Coerced or forced sexual intercourse. Forced sexual intercourse means vaginal, anal, or oral penetration by the offender(s). This category could include incidents where the penetration was from a foreign object such as a bottle. Includes attempted rapes, male and female victims, and both heterosexual and same-sex rape. Attempted rape includes verbal threats of rape.”

This particular definition earns its relevance later in the research.

Disclosure

When a sexual assault disclosure is made, it is the process in which a victim of sexual assault makes their trauma known to another individual (Ullman et al., 2017). Disclosures can be impacted by a number of factors (Starzynski et al., 2007). Assault factors, such as age of victimization, relationship between the perpetrator and victim, the level of physical violence or threat of physical violence that was experienced during the assault all have significant impact on the disclosure process (Starzynski et al., 2007). Another factor that influences the disclosure of sexual assault is the trauma history that a victim has experienced (Starzynski et al., 2007). If an individual has experienced excessive and repeated forms of sexual assault, it will impact their likelihood to disclosure (Starzynski et al., 2007). Victims could become numb to the victimization and therefore do not find worth in disclosing a recent assault in attempts to seek support. (Starzynski et al., 2007).

Similarly, there are many post-assault factors that impact the disclosure of sexual abuse. If a victim begins to experience strong post-traumatic stress disorder characteristics, suicidal ideations, distrust in peers or family, or even medical or mental health diagnoses can either increase or decrease likelihood for disclosure of sexual abuse (Starzynski et al., 2007). A disclosure is much different than reporting. A disclosure is a statement to someone who would not necessarily be considered a reporting official. Reporting officials would be considered those individuals belonging to law enforcement agencies. Indirect reporting could be considered those disclosures made to mandatory reporting officials such as medical personnel and school officials.

These influential disclosure factors are extremely important because they speak to the large percentage of sexual assaults that go unreported. Over 60% of sexual assaults are not

reported (Department of Justice, 2015). The Department of Justice (2013) provided the following reasons that victims gave for not reporting their victimization to police:

- 20% feared retaliation
- 13% believed the police would not do anything to help
- 13% believed it was a personal matter
- 8% reported to a different official
- 8% believed it was not important enough to report
- 7% did not want to get the perpetrator in trouble
- 2% believed the police could not do anything to help
- 30% gave another reason, or did not cite one reason

This point moves to signify all of the factors, both personally and culturally, that effect the reporting of sexual assault. Many of these factors, with early intervention of sexual assault victims' advocacy can be addressed and rationalized (Camacho & Alarid, 2008). Advocate intervention and a coordinated community response can address fears such as belief that police would not or could not do anything to help, the belief that the incident was not important enough to report, the fear of retaliation, and the wish for the perpetrator to avoid reprimand.

By establishing a coordinated community response and implementing sexual assault response teams, the beliefs that the police could not or would not do anything can be addressed by a sexual assault victim's advocate. Victim's advocates work closely with law enforcement and can speak transparently to the victim about what their legal rights are and what the legal obligations of law enforcement are as well (IACASA, 2017) (NEIOWA SART, 2017). Similarly, this team, this response effort, and advocacy support can also address the fear of retaliation. This response can encourage a safety plan and safety provisions by other agencies to ensure survivor

safety. This safety planning can include a civil protective order, which would prohibit the perpetrator from having contact with the victim (The National Center for Victims of Crime, 2018). Finally, the implementation of advocacy contact and support can address the victim's wishes that are related to reprimand for their perpetrator as well as the importance of their experience. Advocates can facilitate counseling services or conduct peer-peer counseling for the victim to combat the false narratives that they themselves have thought of, or things their perpetrator has instilled in them (IACASA, 2017).

Victim vs. Survivor

The term *victim* is used when referring to someone who has recently been affected by sexual assault or sexual violence (RAINN^b, 2018). The term *victim* is also typically used when describing the role of someone who has had a crime committed against them (RAINN^b, 2018). This term is also most commonly used by all criminal justice professionals (RAINN^b, 2018). The term *survivor* is typically used when referring to someone whose experience is not recent (RAINN^b, 2018). This term describes someone who has recovered from their assault, either emotionally, psychologically, or physically (RAINN^b, 2018). These terms can be interchanged dependent on the context of the discussion. For example, *victim* and *survivor* may be interchanged in the discussion of short or long term effects of sexual assault and sexual violence.

The use of these labels can be difficult for service providers and the people who have been affected by these crimes themselves (RAINN^b, 2018). It is most important, when working with this population, to allow the individuals who have experienced a sexual assault to determine the label for themselves after these experiences (RAINN^b, 2018). For the purpose of this research, *victim* will be the label of choice. It is considerate and client-centered to allow the

victim or victim to choose which label they prefer, and adopt that label, as an advocate, when referring to them (RAINN^b, 2018).

Perpetrator

The term perpetrator is a descriptor of a person who commits a crime (MNCASA, 2018). This term is often used as a reference for someone who commits a sexual act against another, unwilling individual (MNCASA, 2018). A perpetrator is responsible for the crime and the illegal action that has taken place (MNCASA, 2018)

Grooming

Grooming is a process in which a perpetrator gains access to his or her victims (Welner, 2010). Typically these behaviors are utilized in cases of child sexual abuse (Welner, 2010). This access allows the perpetrator to more easily conduct a sexual relationship with a victim (Welner, 2010). It is important to define these behaviors, because they play a crucial role in an advocates work (Welner, 2010). When working with victims who have experienced grooming behaviors, their want to participate in the criminal justice system can be more strenuous, traumatizing, and difficult than others (Campbell, 2012). Early advocacy intervention has made considerable difference in the participation and prosecutorial success of sexual assault cases (Camacho & Alarid, 2008), but this is especially true in cases of perpetrator grooming because of the level of psychological manipulation and control that has taken place (Welner, 2010). Grooming behaviors take place in six general stages. According to Dr. Michael Welner (2010), the six stages of grooming are as follows:

Stage 1: Targeting the victim

This stage describes the process in which a perpetrator identifies a victim and targets them based on the victim's state of vulnerability: emotional reliance, isolation, and lowered self-esteem (Welner, 2010).

Stage 2: Gaining the victim's trust

Perpetrators observe their victims to gather information about the victim: what his or her needs are or who the victim identifies as support systems. The perpetrator's knowledge of the victim's life allows them to connect with the victim on a personal level (Welner, 2010). By observing a victim's support system, especially if the victim is a child, the perpetrator can mingle with those individuals to create an effortless and trusting relationship.

Stage 3: Filling a need

After a perpetrator identifies all of the needs that their victim has, the perpetrator then begins to fill those needs (Welner, 2010). This tactic forces the victim to identify the perpetrator as increasingly important. This point is especially true if the perpetrator provides the victim with gifts, extra attention, and increased affection. These factors should act as warning signs for parents (Welner, 2010).

Stage 4: Isolating the child

After a perpetrator is able to gain access and trust from a victim and their support systems, the perpetrator is able to begin isolating the victim (Welner, 2010). The perpetrator has built a “special” relationship with the victim and is able to create circumstances where the perpetrator and victim are alone together. This isolation furthers their “special connection” (Welner, 2010).

Stage 5: Sexualizing the relationship

After a sufficient emotional dependence has been established and the perpetrator has gained a large amount of trust from the victim, the perpetrator is able to progressively sexualize the relationship (Welner, 2010). The perpetrator does this by desensitizing that relationship by taking photos, talking about it, or even creating circumstances for which both the perpetrator and victim are naked. When grooming the victim, the perpetrator is able to mold the victim’s sexual preferences (Welner, 2010).

Stage 6: Maintaining control

After the sexual abuse is occurring, the perpetrator maintains that contact through the use of “secrecy and blame” (Welner, 2010) to maintain the relationship and ensure the victim’s silence. If a victim begins to question the entanglement of this relationship, perpetrators will revoke the material offerings and sever the emotional support (Welner, 2010).

Finally, this process for which a perpetrator maintains access to their victim creates difficulty for the victim as it leaves them with loss and social severance if they address the abuse and try to leave (Welner, 2010).

Advocacy

Sexual assault victims' advocates are trained, in the State of Iowa, as victim's counselor. This training and title allows victims' advocates to be granted absolute privilege, also known as victims' counselor privilege, that is promised under Iowa Code 915.20. According to the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault (IowaCASA):

“Advocates are professionals trained by IowaCASA to support victims of sexual violence. They offer information, emotional support, and help to find resources within victims' communities. Advocates may also help victims fill out important paperwork, or talk through experiences that may be triggering or cause flashbacks. Advocates will even attend court proceedings or service provider appointments with victims.”

Advocacy is a position for which advocates and victims' counselors fulfill in order to serve victims of all forms of sexual assault.

S.A.R.T.

According to the Northeast Iowa SART website (2018),

“**Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs)** are coalitions of agencies that serve sexual assault victims. Core membership for SARTs typically includes victim advocates, law enforcement officers, forensic medical examiners, forensic scientists, and prosecutors. Multidisciplinary SARTs work together to formalize interagency guidelines that

prioritize victims' needs, hold offenders accountable, and promote public safety. SART models range from informal, cooperative partnerships to more formalized, coordinated, and multidisciplinary responses on local, regional, state, tribal, or territory levels. In general, SARTs are committed to victims' rights and needs, organize their service delivery to enhance evidence collection, and educate the community about services available for the intervention and prevention of sexual assault."

Sexual assault response teams are considered multidisciplinary teams. The Northeast Iowa SART is the team that I, as a sexual assault advocate, belong to. The identity of each member is described, as stated on the Northeast Iowa SART website (2018), below:

“Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Coordinator: Provides leadership for the development and activities of county-specific Sexual Assault Response Teams.

Responsibilities include training, supporting and enhancing existing and developing SART programs in Northeast Iowa. The SART Coordinator continuously works to build infrastructure and alliances with appropriate local, state, healthcare, county attorney's offices, and law enforcement agencies to promote consistent, professional and trauma informed coordinated response to victims of sexual assault,” (NEIOWASART, 2018).

“Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE): Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE):

A registered nurse (RN) with highly specialized training to provide a forensic evidentiary examination and medical support. When children are involved, the medical examination is done by specialized pediatric examiners at a Child Protection Center (CPC), who have training as Doctors, Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners and/or Registered Nurses to provide the examination and collect evidence from children,” (NEIOWASART, 2018).

“Sexual Assault Advocate: Are present to mediate interactions between the victim, emergency room personnel, and law enforcement. Advocates concentrate on the best interests of the victim, including listening to their needs rather than asking questions and directing her/his behavior. To best serve sexual assault victims, advocates provide replacement clothing, and information regarding the Sexual Assault Examination Kit procedures, STD testing/treatment and other medical choices. The advocate also serves as a liaison between the victim and the criminal justice system to ensure that the victim’s rights are protected if the victim wishes to proceed with the criminal justice system. The advocate can accompany a victim to a police interview, assist with orders of protection, provide case updates, and attend all meetings and court proceedings with law enforcement and the prosecuting attorney’s office with, or on behalf of, the victim,” (NEIOWASART, 2018).

“Victim Witness Coordinator: Crime Victim/Witness Coordinators provide services, support, and education to victims and witnesses of crimes. They ensures victims and witnesses are treated with fairness and respect and receive information and assistance for relevant services, including notification of significant court events, referrals to appropriate support services, reasonable protection from the accused, help in determining and requesting restitution and the return of property and information concerning the conviction, sentencing, imprisonment and release of an offender,” (NEIOWASART, 2018).

“Law Enforcement: Specially trained to listen to the victim's story and ask detailed questions that may lead to the prosecution of the perpetrator. They ensure the victim is able to return back to a safe environment and may make referrals to appropriate support services. Law Enforcement on the Sexual Assault Response Team are dedicated to victim-centered care and justice,” (NEIOWASART, 2018).

“Community Partners: Individuals and organizations providing additional supports and resources to a victim's needs,” (NEIOWASART, 2018).

Section Three

History

Sexual violence is as old as man. History has shown, even exclaimed in biblical verses, that “we should have seen this coming” when speaking about the epidemic that is sexual violence and rape. It is important, for the purpose of this scholarly research, to outline the reason that advocacy for victims of sexual assault has become a necessity in the first place. Many of the themes associated with the historical recognition of sexual assault and rape as a crime is also plagued with harmful narratives, ideations, and laws that effect the disclosure and prosecution of sexual assaults. This historical recap will include the history of sexual violence ranging from the

biblical era, to the exploration of Christopher Columbus, through the Roman Empire, to Medieval England, toward Colonial America all the way to the modern historical influence on sexual violence (Conti, 2016). This historical recap will also include the evolution of laws and statutes that have moved to correct the historical influence on sexual violence.

Sexual violence stems from many different problematic societal beliefs. One of the most harmful beliefs that contributes to sexual violence is the opinion or point of view that persons that are perceived to be “weaker” are considered objects, property, and items easily to control (RAINN © 2018). This ideation is what so determinately effects women, children, and transgender individuals (RAINN © 2018). The influence and impact that these harmful beliefs and ideations have made on the entire institution of victim reporting statistics only perpetuates the need for victim advocacy, to attempt to change these ideas and these beliefs (IACASA, 2017). This is no small feat, these beliefs are as old as time. Biblical references have contributed to much of this detrimental issue. Biblical verse by Exodus, chapter 20 verse 17 (King James Version) says:

“Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor’s.”

It is in this biblical verse where a man’s wife is just as valuable as a servant, ox, ass, and other property. Should a woman be “coveted” by a man’s neighbor, even if it occurred forcibly, the woman was not the victim; her husband was. This is the tip of the iceberg that influenced the minimization of victim’s trauma. This minimization can be seen as a driving force for the victim rights movement.

Fast forward a few hundred years to pre-Columbus America. Women were considered to be safer than their biblical counterparts (Conti, 2016). The reason for this is because, in Native American culture, women were seen as essential parts of their indigenous culture. If someone were to harm a member of their own circle, it was seen as harming themselves and their society (Conti, 2016). If a case of violence would have occurred, Native Americans had a swift and precise way of dealing with it (Conti, 2016). This process would also allow the victim to decide what punishment that they find to be appropriate (Conti, 2016).

Many years were spent, across the world, through the Roman Empire era and much of Medieval England, where rape was not considered a crime (Conti, 2016). In Colonial America, the word rape was not even referred to until the 19th century (Conti, 2016). Unfortunately, at this time, the word rape or rapist was not used in order to prevent the crime or help convict perpetrators for the benefit of the victim, it was about race (Conti, 2016). The word rapist, at that time, was almost always used in conjunction with the n-word. At that time, it was exponentially easier to convict black men of crimes than it was to convict white men because they were tried in slave courts that did not require unanimous decisions from jurors (Conti, 2016).

Early America gained much of its ideas and concepts from British common law (Anderson, 2002). British common law and, American common law, required prosecutors to prove three elements to convict a defendant of rape: “vaginal intercourse, force, and lack of consent” (Capers, 2013). However, prosecutors were also required to prove that the victim had done all that he or she could to resist and prevent the rape (Sweeny & Slack, 2017). In their defense, defendants could bring in evidence of a victim’s prior loose sexual conduct because courts often found that it was “more probable that an unchaste woman would assent to such [a sexual] act (People v. Collins, 1962). Therefore, while it was common for most jurisdictions to

prevent evidence of a victim's prior sexual behavior there was also a general exception to this common law rule for rape cases (Galvin, 1986).

By the early 20th century, American law finally began to recognize a woman's right be protected from sexual predation (Siegel, 2003). It was at this time that the notion and idea of consent became common language in some criminal law across America (Siegel, 2003). The decade before the Civil War, the rise of the Woman's rights movement became known (Siegel, 2003). It was during this time that many people became more vocal about the socioeconomic conditions that made women susceptible to sexual violence (Siegel, 2003). It was portrayed that sexual coercion as a normal behavior rather than a "deviant condition of heterosexual relations," (Siegel, 2003, pg 6). However, despite the outspoken pleas for women's "vulnerability," socioeconomic influence struck again. With the restriction on women's labor participation and the depression of their wages, women became dependent on men for economic support which allowed men to extract sexual compliance in exchange for that support (Siegel, 2003).

The namely thing that these eras all had in common is this: lack of support, service, preventative measures, law, and belief for those who have experienced sexual violence. This was a commonality for much of threshold of early America and even beyond. There was a need that was not being satisfied, a population still unheard, and laws still unwritten.

Women in the early feminist movement were never able to organize a sustainable effort that acknowledges the practices that are defined, now, as sexual violence and sexual harassment (Siegel, 2003). However, they did pave the way for modern women to address and argue women's rights and launch an active campaign against the acceptance for sexual violence in the 1970s movement (Siegel, 2003). The 1970s was a time for women to speak out about their experiences as women. This time began to recognize gender based harm and what a sore it

created on the American legal system (Siegel 2003). Women began to realize the powerlessness of being a woman in male dominated educational, social, political, and economic institutions (Brownmiller, 1975). For many, this time became known as the “anti-rape movement,” (Brownmiller, 1975).

Early feminists were hardly recognized for their efforts in the fight against this form of gender based violence. According to Susan Schechter (1982), the Chicago Women Against Rape’s 1970’s statement of purpose was written as follows:

“Rape violently reflects the sexism in a society where power is unequally distributed between women and men, black and white, poor and rich...In rape, the woman is not a sexual being but a vulnerable piece of public property; the man does not violate society’s norms so much as take them to a logical conclusion.”

Women, for decades, felt unheard, unwanted, and under-cared for as members of society (Schechter, 1982). The 1970s was a time for that to change.

Countless speak outs were held, where women bravely spoke against their perpetrators, told of their victimization, and shared the barriers that stood in their way (Schechter, 1982). These women spoke of not being able to leave their abuser, not having anyone to talk to about the violence, not feeling comfortable enough to receive medical care because of the humiliation related to their injuries and their origins, ignored. These women also disclosed never even considering the thought of going to police, for these same reasons (Schechter, 1982). Women began to recognize the few provisions that were put in place to protect victims of sexual violence; and they took action. Victims of sexual violence became victims, and victims became activists (Poskin, 2006).

Their needs became the push for creation. This grass-roots movement became resources for future victims of sexual violence. These women created the very thing they wished had been available for them during their time of need (Poskin, 2006). These included a telephone service, where someone would answer in the middle of the night to help turn away someone's nightmares (Poskin, 2006). They began talking with nurses and doctors on how to effectively treat victims of sexual assault, as they as patients are so much different than any other emergency room patient (Poskin, 2006). These women spoke to their communities on how to prevent sexual violence and sexual assault (Poskin, 2006). These women taught police officers how to respond to a victim of sexual violence and how to interview them differently than other victims of crime (Poskin, 2006). Finally, these women wanted their communities, their legislators, and their law makers to know what a serious crime rape and sexual assault was in hopes for change. There were no degrees in how to halt an intimate crime epidemic. Change and action against rape, sexual assault, and perpetrators came from the victims' own experiences (Poskin, 2006).

In the years follow, victims and advocate began opening rape crisis centers to fill the needs of victims of sexual assault. These centers had the purpose of providing mental health care for victims as well as maintaining a victim receive all the other appropriate treatment and care they need. With this advocacy and the relentless action on behalf of the victims and their allies came legislative victories (Poskin, 2006). Laws were created in order to standardize sexual assault medical exams and the evidence collection process following a sexual assault (Poskin, 2006). Rape Shield Laws were introduced, protecting victim's sexual history during a trial (Poskin, 2006). Victim service funding were authorized by individualized states and Congress (Poskin, 2006).

It was also during this time that the Victims of Crime act of 1985 and the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 drastically changed the culture surrounding victim services in the United States (Poskin, 2006). These acts cemented more agencies to compensate for the number of victims and also created more funding opportunities for them as well (Poxsin, 2006). This meant more advocates to serve an unfortunately growing population. Similarly, the visibility and awareness of sexual violence as a serious crime became well-known and the viability of rape crisis centers increased tremendously (Poskin, 2006). This viability as well as the transparency around the crime itself provided much hope to survivors who felt lost in the legal system that was meant to protect them (Poskin, 2006). Advocates gained traction in the criminal justice system, which aided in the protection of victims, the maintenance of their rights, and the success of perpetrator prosecution (Poskin, 2006).

The first federal money allocation for sexual assault and rape prevention and rape crisis services was distributed to sexual assault centers in 1982 through the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (Polksin, 2006). Congress introduced the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) that created new penalties for gender related violence and henceforth established the Rape Prevention Education (RPE) Program that is administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (Poskin, 2006). VAWA Also established S.T.O.P. grant funds that are administered by the Department of Justice (Poskin, 2006). The act was enhanced and reauthorized in 2000 and 2006 (Poskin, 2006).

These movements have influenced, not only the transparency of the crime of sexual assault and the perpetuation of victims' rights, but also the establishment of many awareness events and prevention tactics. Take Back the Night, Clothesline Project, "What were you

wearing,” The Vagina Monologues, and Denim Day are all awareness and prevention events that are centered on sexual assault and rape.

Take Back the Night is a speak out and, often time, protesting, event where victims come to share their stories of sexual violence and stand in solidarity with all of those who have had similar experiences (Gibson, 2011). This event began in the 1970s as a way for women to come together to protest the injustices related to being a victim of sexual assault (Gibson, 2011). This crime also allowed these individuals to tell this story to a crowd of individuals who could relate despite belonging to a society that did not care (Gibson, 2011). This event is an opportunity for these individuals to stand together in reflection and resistance of the crimes of sexual violence that have occurred (Gibson, 2011).

The clothesline project allowed victims to “decorate” a t-shirt with whatever they felt represented their experience. This decoration could be a quote, a mural, a phrase, or even a name. All the victims then hang the shirt on a clothesline as a large representation of their experiences as well as the crime of sexual assault and rape in general. For many, this experience is one that offers a cathartic closing to these experiences as victims are able to “turn their backs” on these memories by hanging the shirt with the “decoration” facing the opposite way.

The “what were you wearing” campaign challenges the stereotype that the only reason someone is sexually assaulted is because of the provocation of what they were wearing e.g. a little black dress, short skirt, tight shirt, swimsuit, etc. (The University of Kansas, 2018). When, in reality, many times this project shows that victims were wearing things like hooded sweatshirts and sweat pants, pajamas, t-shirts, jeans, etc. (The University of Kansas, 2018). This project dispels the myth that victims have a first hand in causing their assault (The University of Kansas, 2018).

The Vagina Monologues is a play that outlines consensual and nonconsensual sexual experiences, body image, genital mutilation, and other topics from the perception of a woman. One of the monologues called *My Vagina Was My Villiage* outlines a story of a Bosnian woman that was subjected to rape camps (Ensler, 1996).

Denim day (USA) is an awareness campaign that takes place during the month of April, which is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (POV, 2018). The campaign has been active for over 19 years. The campaign was originally triggered by case that had come out of Italy in the 1990s. An 18-year old girl was picked up by her driving instructor for her first driving lesson. Her driving instructor was a 45-year old married man. During their lesson, the driver took her to an isolated road, takes her from the car, wrestles her out of one leg of her jeans, and rapes her (POV, 2018). After the assault, her assailant threatens to kill her if she tells anyone about what happened and makes her drive the car home. Later that night, the young girl tells her parents about what happened to her, the report it to police, her perpetrator is arrested and convicted of rape (POV, 2018). He appealed.

During his appeals process, his case is sent to the Italian Supreme Court (POV, 2018). In just a few short days, the Supreme Court overturns the ruling, dismisses the charges, and the perpetrator is released from jail (POV, 2018). In a statement by the Chief Judge, he argued that “because the victim wore very, very tight jeans, she had to help him remove them, and by removing the jeans it was no longer rape but consensual sex,” (POV, 2018). The following day, women in the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim (POV, 2018). Denim day is a symbol of protest against the misplaced ideas surrounding sexual assault and the attitudes related to victim blaming (POV, 2018). One day in April, community members,

elected officials, business, and students make a statement by wearing jeans as a visible means of protest against victim blaming and harmful ideations surrounding sexual assault (POV, 2018).

The final wave of this historical fight against sexual violence is one that is happening right now. New tools like Title IX and Clery complaints are giving victims on college campuses more resources to fight against their perpetrators. Social media has also provided a voice and a forum for those who may have otherwise gone without. The #MeToo campaign has provided the most recent wave of awareness over the subject of sexual violence. In 2006, Tarana Burke founded the Me Too. Movement. She created the movement to help victims of sexual violence, in particular, she wanted to help young women of color from impoverished communities find ways to heal (Burke, 2018). She utilized the idea of “empowerment through empathy,” (Burke 2018). The Me Too. Movement was created to inform victims and to assure them, that “they are not alone in their journey,” (Burke, 2018). Within the last 2 years, the #metoo movement has created a world of awareness and acknowledgement to sexual violence and has created a new and unique platform for victims to tell their stories (Burke, 2018).

Laws

There are many statutes, laws, and precedent that have been introduced and passed throughout history in relation to sexual assault. For the purpose of this research, it is important to note the various laws and statutes associated with sexual assault, sexual violence, and rape and the changes associated with this criminal act. Some of these changes reflect the various movements that have been associated with the feminist movement, victims’ rights reform, and even the emergence of advocacy centers.

Sexual Assault Victims’ Rights

In 2016, the United States Legal Code added an amendment to Title 18, crimes and criminal procedure (USC § 3772) which cemented the importance of victim focus throughout criminal justice proceedings. This code reads as follows:

“(a) RIGHTS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS—In addition to those rights provided in section 3771, a sexual assault victim has the following rights:

- (1) The right not to be prevented from, or charged for, receiving a medical forensic examination.
- (2) The right to—
 - (A) subject to paragraph (3), have a sexual assault evidence collection kit or its probative contents preserved, without charge, for the duration of the maximum applicable statute of limitations or 20 years, whichever is shorter;
 - (B) be informed of any result of a sexual assault evidence collection kit, including a DNA profile match, toxicology report, or other information collected as part of a medical forensic examination, if such disclosure would not impede or compromise an ongoing investigation; and
 - (C) be informed in writing of policies governing the collection and preservation of a sexual assault evidence collection kit.
- (3) The right to—

(A) upon written request, receive written notification from the appropriate official with custody not later than 60 days before the date of the intended destruction or disposal; and

(B) upon written request, be granted further preservation of the kit or its probative contents.

(4) The right to be informed of the rights under this subsection.

(b) APPLICABILITY — Subsections (b) through (f) of [section 3771](#) shall apply to sexual assault victims.”

Victims’ Counselor Privilege

To further the protection of sexual assault victims, the introduction and maintenance of privacy continued. In 1980, California became the first state in the nation to provide “confidential privilege” to victims communicating with counselors (Arabian, 2009, pg. 13). Since then, and since the publication of Armand’s article, 29 states have adopted this language or similar statutes that protect the communications between victims and their sexual assault counselors. They include Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming (Arabian, 2009). There remain twenty-one states that lack this protection for victims to date, including Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota,

Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

The California codes that paved the way for this protection reads as follows (Arabian, 2009, pg. 14).

“California § 1035.8. Sexual assault counselor privilege

A victim of a sexual assault, whether or not a party, has a privilege to refuse to disclose, and to prevent another from disclosing, a confidential communication between the victim and a sexual assault counselor if the privilege is claimed by any of the following:

- (a) The holder of the privilege;
- (b) A person who is authorized to claim the privilege by the holder of the privilege; or
- (c) The person who was the sexual assault counselor at the time of the confidential communication, but that person may not claim the privilege if there is no holder of the privilege in existence or if he or she is otherwise instructed by a person authorized to permit disclosure.”

Considering that much of this research has evaluated Iowa law and advocacy in Iowa, it is also relevant to include the Iowa code section that describes sexual assault counselor privilege in the state. Iowa code section 915.20A describes this privilege as “victim counselor privilege,”

“1a. Confidential communication” means information shared between a crime victim and a victim counselor within the counseling relationship, and includes all information received by the counselor and any advice, report, or working paper given to or prepared by the counselor in the course of the counseling relationship with the victim.

“Confidential information” is confidential information which, so far as the victim is

aware, is not disclosed to a third party with the exception of a person present in the consultation for the purpose of furthering the interest of the victim, a person to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for the transmission of the information, or a person with whom disclosure is necessary for accomplishment of the purpose for which the counselor is consulted by the victim.”

“2. A victim counselor shall not be examined or required to give evidence in any civil or criminal proceeding as to any confidential communication made by a victim to the counselor, nor shall a clerk, secretary, stenographer, or any other employee who types or otherwise prepares or manages the confidential reports or working papers of a victim counselor be required to produce evidence of any such confidential communication, unless the victim waives this privilege in writing or disclosure of the information is compelled by a court pursuant to subsection 7. Under no circumstances shall the location of a crime victim center or the identity of the victim counselor be disclosed in any civil or criminal proceeding.”

This protection allows the victim to have an unadulterated communication with a trusted official when discussing services for coping and resolving the negative effects associated with sexual assault.

Rape Shield Laws

One of the more commonly known laws associated with sexual assault and rape are “rape shield” laws. These laws are designed to protect victims of sexual assault (NOLO, 2013). These laws apply during the criminal justice process, which, with little exception, prevent the introduction of a victim’s sexual history, behaviors, or reputation (NOLO, 2013). Before the

introduction of these laws, defendants could present evidence pertinent to the victim's sexual activity during their criminal trial (NOLO, 2013). This character attacked portrayed the victim as unchaste, immoral, and therefore at fault for their assault (NOLO, 2013). It was during the late 1970s into the 1980s that states began to protect victims of sexual assault during their criminal trials (NOLO, 2013). It was recognized that victims already experienced humiliation and embarrassment when they reported their victimization. They recognized that the character of a sexual history of a victim was largely irrelevant to the criminal trial against their perpetrator (NOLO, 2013).

According to the federal rule of evidence level code 412, as it relates to criminal sex crimes cases,

(a) Prohibited Uses. The following evidence is not admissible in a civil or criminal proceeding involving alleged sexual misconduct:

- (1) evidence offered to prove that a victim engaged in other sexual behavior; or
- (2) evidence offered to prove a victim's sexual predisposition.

(b) Exceptions.

(1) Criminal Cases. The court may admit the following evidence in a criminal case:

- (A)** evidence of specific instances of a victim's sexual behavior, if offered to prove that someone other than the defendant was the source of semen, injury, or other physical evidence;
- (B)** evidence of specific instances of a victim's sexual behavior with respect to the person accused of the sexual misconduct, if offered by the defendant to prove consent or if offered by the prosecutor; and
- (C)** evidence whose exclusion would violate the defendant's constitutional rights.

Rape shield laws are designed to protect victims of sex crimes during criminal proceedings. These laws prevent defendants from introducing evidence of victims' sexual behavior, history, or reputation with very little exception (NOLO, 2013). This evidence, historically, painted victims of sexual assaults as unchaste, therefore minimizing the belief in them as survivors of sexual assault or rape (NOLO, 2013). Exceptions to this rule can be made on a case by case basis. Many rape shield laws allow defendants to present evidence of the victim's sexual reputation to the court prior to trial so that the judge may decide whether to admit it (NOLO, 2013).

Title IX & Clery Act

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex by any federally funded educational program or activity (USC § 1681). This federal mandate discourages the use and spending of federal money to support sexual discrimination and sexual violence in educational programs (USC § 1681). This regulation provides opportunity for justice and protection for victims of sexual violence on a college campus (USC § 1681). Each federally funded organization has investigators and coordinators that are obligated to provide intervention and information on sexual misconduct on campuses in the United States (USC § 1681). This intervention means offering accommodations for a complainant to be provided with safer housing on campus or for that individual's perpetrator to be removed from any shared space that the two may have (USC § 1681). This intervention also means that these individuals are responsible for investigating and mitigating any problematic behaviors related to sexual misconduct on a college campus (USC § 1681).

The Clery Act of 1992 is a protection law that aims to provide transparency around campus crime policy and statistics related to violence on all college campuses (The Clery Center, 2018). The Clery Act requires colleges and universities that receive federal funding to publish and disperse a public annual security report (ASR) to employees and students every year (The Clery Center, 2018). This security report must include “statistics of campus crime for the preceding 3 calendar years, plus details about efforts taken to improve campus safety,” (The Clery Center, 2018). According to The Clery Center (2018) the security reports must also include:

“policy statements regarding (but not limited to) crime reporting, campus facility security and access, law enforcement authority, incidence of alcohol and drug use, and the prevention of/response to sexual assault, domestic or dating violence, and stalking.”

The Clery Act earned its name and its significance in an unfortunate way. The murder of Jeanne Clery occurred in 1986, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania at Lehigh University, where she was a student (The Clery Center, 2018). Clery, was killed in her campus dormitory. Following her daughter’s death, Clery's parents, who believed the University had failed to share information with its students regarding campus safety, campaigned for legislative reform for several years (The Clery Center, 2018). Their efforts ultimately resulted in the passage of the Clery Act (The Clery Center, 2018).

Section Four

Advocacy 101

The basis of this research is to better understand a victim’s experience in the criminal justice setting and what factors play into improving that experience. This piece not only moves to

improve that understand, but also understand the complex traumas that make extra attention and extra accommodation for these individuals so necessary. For years, victims, allies, and advocates have fought, tooth and nail, for a change in the way that our culture views victims of sexual assault. This research has outlined the various historical perspectives that have influenced the treatment of victims of sexual assault. In that outline, it has been mentioned that the feminist movement and the anti-rape movement has influenced much of what culture has come to know as rape crisis centers, more professionally referred to as sexual assault victim service centers. These victim service centers typically employ several different positions, all of which revolve around the role of advocating for and supporting victims of sexual violence, but in particular it is the victims' advocate role that this research is focusing on.

Victims' advocates are specially trained professionals who are trained to support victims of crime (Rape Victims Advocates, 2018). Advocates offer information regarding follow-up care that includes therapy services, medical treatment, and other social service assistance (Rape Victims Advocates, 2018). Advocates also offer emotional support for victims after they have experienced a sexual assault (Rape Victims Advocates, 2018). Typically, advocates provide emotional support over the phone if a victim were to call a hotline (Rape Victims Advocates, 2018). Advocates may also provide emotional support at the hospital if a victim is receiving a sexual assault examination and is also having evidence collection (Rape Victims Advocates, 2018). These professionals also provide in-person counseling or even facilitate support groups as well. Finally, and the focus of this study, advocates also provide information and support throughout each step of the criminal justice system, if the victim chooses to have them present.

The victims' advocate wears many hats. According to the National Center for Victims of Crime (2012), a typical role of an advocate may include:

“Providing information on victimization;”

From personal experience as an advocate, this information can include specification on the type of assault that occurred and the technical verbiage of that assault. This clarification can be important when working with medical professionals and when reporting the crime to law enforcement. This information may also include an explanation of the various reactions to any violent victimization, that being the fight, flight, or freeze responses. Typically, victims blame themselves for not fighting their perpetrators during their assault. The explanation of reactions can help ease their sense of self-blame.

“Providing information on crime prevention;”

This particular service could mean providing information on civil protective orders, which eliminate any potential contact between a perpetrator and a victim before a criminal no contact order is placed (The National Center for Victims of Crime, 2018). If this information is being provided in a victim service setting, typically this information would be provided in cases where the victim is a child and the child’s perpetrator could still have potential access to them (IACASA, 2017). This would be better classified as “safety planning” to prevent implying that it is the care giver or the victim’s responsibility to prevent a crime from occurring and therefore they are responsible that a crime had already occurred (IACASA, 2017). Otherwise, advocates can do community trainings on standard prevention tactics such as bystander intervention and

understanding the dynamics of a healthy relationship and consent (IACASA, 2017).

“Providing information on victims' legal rights and protections;”

Depending on which portion of the process an advocate is assisting a client, this information may include rights to receive medical care, rights to report to law enforcement, rights to be notified when and if a victim's perpetrator is released from prison, rights to be reimbursed for an lost monetary benefits that may occurred as a result of this assault, such as confiscated evidence, lost wages because of court accompaniment, mileage reimbursement for traveling to counseling appointments, as well as counseling costs. The named above are just a few rights afforded to victims that an advocate may discuss with them.

Helping victims with victim compensation applications;

As stated above, once a victim has gathered what loses may have occurred as a result f the sexual assault, he or she may receive assistance from an advocate in applying for compensation from the state in order to be reimbursed for those costs.

“Providing information on the criminal justice process;”

This is also referred to as “legal advocacy.” This is the process in which an advocate informs the victim of their reporting rights, what reporting to a law enforcement officer may look like, what the steps to an investigation are, the process for which charges are filed against someone, and the criminal court process that follows. This is also a time that advocates should maintain

transparency with their clients. This transparency may include that the court process may take over a year to bring their case to trial, should they file charges at all.

“Providing emotional support to victims;”

This is a continuous service that advocates provide throughout any and all processes that he or she is assisting a victim with. This ensures that the victim maintain emotional regularity by helping them identify coping mechanisms if they feel triggered or feel overwhelmed. These things can include taking deep breaths, counting inside your head, or simply just talking with the advocate when a victim feels a bit overwhelmed with anything.

“Helping victims with safety planning;”

As stated under “provide information on crime prevention,” this tactic would be used to prevent the perpetrator from having further or continued access to the victim. Normally this would include setting up the victim to stay with a family member, changing the locks on their doors, moving out of the perpetrator’s residence, staying in a hotel or a shelter, and being equipped with ways to protect him or herself, should the perpetrator gain access.

“Helping victims submit comments to courts and parole boards;”

Advocates may help victims with drafting their victim impact statements or even a parole resistance letter if their perpetrator is requesting release. Typically, advocates would provide a narrative that is more easily understood in

terms of expectation. These narratives include helpful reminders for the victim to describe the ultimate effect of the crime and why a given punishment is necessary.

“Intervening with creditors, landlords, and employers on behalf of victims;”

This is a form of personal advocacy where advocates may assist the victim in confronting their landlord, employer, school, etc. when they are in need of an additional accommodation. Advocates may also find additional resources to assist the victim if he or she is in need of rental assistance, utility assistance, or other assistance in order to avoid a confrontation.

“Helping victims find shelter and transportation;”

This role is dependent on the funding that is provided to a given sexual assault victim service agency. Certain funding streams do not allow victim service agencies to overlap with a service provided by a different agency. If this is the case, advocates can request assistance on behalf of the victim to receive information and assistance with sheltering and transportation. Otherwise, if funding overlap is not an issue, advocates would arrange for the sheltering firsthand.

”Providing referrals for other services for victims;”

As stated above, if a given advocacy center is not able to provide a certain service that a victim requires, the advocate can provide a referral for that victim so that they may easily gain access to the appropriate resources that they require.

“Notifying victims of inmates' release or escape.”

This right maintains the victim's utmost safety and personal awareness. Notifying the victim of his or her perpetrator's release is a main component of legal advocacy. This notification keeps the victim in the loop of what is going on with the justice system as well as makes them aware of any potential safety risk. It is important, at this point, that advocates emphasize the importance of safety planning and reporting any contact from the perpetrator.

Advocate Certification

Many of the laws and rights afforded to victims of sexual assault as it relates sexual assault victims' advocacy services and confidentiality have strict requirements. Consistently, this research references laws, codes, and procedures stemming from the State of Iowa. In order to fully understand the requirements related to the protection of victims' advocacy, this research will delve into the training requirements needed to be classified as a victims' advocate as well as what this training affords in order to be protected under the victims' counselor confidentiality. The Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault's Victim Advocate Certification Program establishes confidentiality for individuals providing sexual abuse services in the State of Iowa (IowaCASA, 2017). There are nearly 25 sexual assault advocacy programs in the State of Iowa (IowaCASA, 2017). Many advocacy programs enlist volunteers to assist them in their efforts of serving victims of sexual assault. This certification program, offered through the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault, also known as IowaCASA, is only offered for paid employees or volunteers working in State advocacy programs.

According to the IowaCASA (2017) certification program, Iowa code 915.20A requires 20 hours of mandatory training to establish confidentiality for both paid advocates and volunteer

advocates. “IowaCASA requires an additional 10 hours to prepare paid and volunteer staff to address the unique needs of sexual assault victims,” (IowaCASA, 2017).

According to the IowaCASA (2017) certification requirements,

“In addition to the 30 hours of required training, Victim Counselors must also complete 15 hours of direct service experience. Victim Counselors will also need 6 consultations once a month with a certified sexual abuse advocate who has at least 1 year of certification.”

Following this certification, it is required advocates renew their certification every 2 years (IowaCASA, 2017).

It is required by the State of Iowa and the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault (IACASA, 2017),

“that all paid staff serving in a direct service or supervisory role must become a Certified Sexual Abuse Advocate within one year of their start date to meet membership standards. They must maintain their certification for the extent of their employment.”

This training is not mandated for volunteers, although they are welcome by the coalition to attend and participate (IowaCASA, 2017).

Section 5

Victim Experience

This section will focus on a victim’s experience following a sexual assault. It will be in this section that the knowledge of advocacy and the different laws and rights surrounding sexual assault victimizations and advocacy will be applied. Each of these experiences will address the

multilevel functioning criminal justice system, the role that a victim plays in that system, and how an advocate assists a victim and members of the criminal justice system in order to maintain a smooth and cohesive relationship between the two. This section will apply the understanding of these two parties and how advocates increase the likelihood that a victim will be warm to the system and therefore participate more effectively. It is important to know that many of the systematic examples and scenarios will be from person experiences, knowledge, and training from a certified sexual assault victims' advocate.

Disclosure

Thus far, this research has provided ample background knowledge on the subject of sexual assault, the prevalence of the crime, rights afforded to victims, and how victims' advocacy overall decreases the trauma related to sexual assault and the participation in the reporting and prosecution of sexual assault perpetrators. To digress, the original statement of purpose for this research included each of these items, as well as the evaluation of the role of a sexual assault victim in the reporting and prosecution of sexual assault cases. This evaluation includes the initial disclosure, hospital presentation, police reports, the criminal trial process, and after care and what assistance a sexual assault victim's advocate can offer.

As stated in the beginning, every 98 seconds, someone in the United States is sexually assaulted (RAINN^c, 2018). It is reported that ages 12 to 34 are the highest risk years for rape and sexual assault (Department of Justice, 1997). 1 in 5 women and 1 in 10 males have fallen victim to sexual assault (RAINN^c, 2018). These statistic is representative of the rates in which it is known that individuals are disclosing incidents of sexual assault and rape (RAINN^c, 2018). According to the Uniform Crime Report, only about 23% of sexual assault or rape cases were

reported to police (Morgan & Kena, 2017). As mentioned prior, according to the Morgan and Kena (2017) and Department of Justice National Crime Victimization Survey, rape is defined as

“Coerced or forced sexual intercourse. Forced sexual intercourse means vaginal, anal, or oral penetration by the offender(s). This category could include incidents where the penetration was from a foreign object such as a bottle. Includes attempted rapes, male and female victims, and both heterosexual and same-sex rape. Attempted rape includes verbal threats of rape.”

As well, the Morgan and Kena (2017) include in their report the National Crime Victimization Survey definition of sexual assault as:

A wide range of victimizations, separate from rape or attempted rape. These crimes include attacks or attempted attacks generally involving unwanted sexual contact between victim and offender. Sexual assaults may or may not involve force and include such things as grabbing or fondling. Sexual assault also includes verbal threats.

Disclosure patterns

In order to understand the rates of disclosure, it is important to understand how children, adolescents, and adults disclose their sexual abuse. It is reported that many incidents of child sexual abuse go unreported, and delayed disclosure is common (Allnock, 2010). Children have different patterns for which they do eventually disclose. These disclosures may occur by directly telling someone about it or over a period of time, through a variety of behaviors and actions, “including discussions and indirect nonverbal cues” (Allnock, 2010). When children do eventually disclose their abuse, it is typically to a friend or sibling (Allnock, 2010). Research shows that children and adolescents do not seek help from victim service agencies or

professionals because they are not aware of their existence or they are unsure what these agencies can offer them (Allnock, 2010). Children and adolescents also do not seek these services because they fear their information would be shared with others without their permission (Allnock, 2010).

These points are incredibly important because they address many of the goals and missions of victim advocacy services. Many victim advocacy services strive to share their name and their services with their communities. These publications happen through community collaboration, health fairs, in-school presentations, summer camps, professional trainings, and so much more. The aspect for which young people fear for the safety of their information is also why many victims' advocacy services are bound by such a strict and lawful confidentiality, even for children, so that no person needs to fear the breach of this information and they can receive services to better themselves without that fear.

Studies related to adult disclosures suggest that, "factors such as the relationship to the perpetrator; age at first incident of abuse; use of physical force; severity of abuse and demographic variables such as gender and ethnicity impact on willingness to disclose abuse," (Allnock, 2017). Typically, adults disclose their sexual abuse to their partner or spouse (Allnock, 2017).

A huge factor that impacts disclosure of sexual assault is the concept of *rape culture* and *victim blaming*. According to Southern Connecticut State University (2018), rape culture is defined as:

Rape Culture is an environment in which rape is prevalent and in which sexual violence is normalized and excused in the media and popular culture. Rape culture is perpetuated

through the use of misogynistic language, the objectification of women's bodies, and the glamorization of sexual violence, thereby creating a society that disregards women's rights and safety.

There are many specific examples of rape culture that include blaming the victim (why didn't you fight back), trivializing sexual assault (boys will be boys), inflating false reporting statistics, tolerance of sexual harassment, teaching women to avoid sexual assault, and many more (Southern Connecticut State University, 2018).

As stated above, *victim blaming* is an incredibly large impact of sexual violence reporting. According to Southern Connecticut State University (2018), victim blaming is defined as the reinforcement that sexual abuse is the victim's fault and that the victim either promoted the abuse, encouraged it, caused it, or did not prevent it (Southern Connecticut State University, 2018). Victim blaming can be expressed by prompting the victim for more information about "how" their abuse happened, rather than accepting their story and finding them help (Southern Connecticut State University, 2018). Victim blaming also typically involves a series of follow up questions, following a disclosure, in which the victim is asked things like "what were you wearing," "why did you go with him/her," "you need to carry pepper spray," "why didn't you scream for help?" These attitudes and questions can marginalize the victim's experience and make their disclosure traumatizing and difficult.

Victims, when disclosing, are typically doing so because they trust the person they are telling and are looking for help (Southern Connecticut State University, 2018). Statements like "thank you for telling me," "I believe you," or aiding with medical care, resources, or information on reporting are the validations that victims are typically seeking when disclosing sexual abuse.

Medical Care

After being sexually assaulted, it is recommended that survivors seek medical attention in order to ensure medical safety, receive STD treatment or prophylaxis, have physical evidence collected, and to receive pregnancy prevention medication if needed (RAINN^d, 2018). This can be a daunting task for many victims, especially considering that there is typically little information on what this process looks like. Nearly all sexual assault victim service agencies have advocates and volunteers available for 24-hour emergency crisis response to hospitals when someone presents disclosing that they have been sexually abused (Rape Victim Advocates, 2018). This advocacy is perhaps one of the most important moments in a victim's experience. Advocate knowledge, care, and calmness all facilitate a smoother and less traumatic experience for a survivor.

While at the hospital, it is an advocate's duty to ensure that a victim is provided with all of the options and care afforded to them under the law (Rape Victim Advocates, 2018). These options include, as stated above, treatment and prophylaxis for any sexually transmitted diseases, emergency contraceptives, standard procedure inspection for any wounds or injuries, a forensic collection of evidence by a trained professional, to speak to law enforcement if they choose, and most importantly, to not be charged for any of the medical care that they receive as a result of a sexual assault (Rape Victim Advocates, 2018). It is during this time where an advocate would discuss with the victim what after care services, like counseling, therapy, and other forms of advocacy are available to them, typically free of cost (Rape Victim Advocates, 2018). Advocates also provide emotional support and assurance throughout this time, another crucial step to prevent further trauma (Rape Victim Advocates, 2018). Advocates typically will build rapport

with the victim that they are serving so that the victim is comfortable with the advocate and can lean on them for questions, comfort, resource, and support (Rape Victim Advocates, 2018).

Another key player in the medical treatment of a victim of sexual assault is the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE). SANES are registered nurses (RN) with highly specialized training to provide a forensic evidentiary examination and medical support. (NEIOWASART, 2017). SANEs are also specialized to understand the traumatic effects of sexual assault and to assist the victim accordingly. SANEs, too, are similar to advocates in their roles, as they are specialized to ensure the safety and care of the victim during their hospital visit. This care has also had impact on prosecutorial success. According to Rebecca Campbell (2012), “post-SANE cases had significantly higher case progression.”

Law Enforcement

As stated throughout this research, rape and sexual assault is a highly underreported crime. There are several reasons for that. According to the Department of Justice (2013) of those sexual assault crimes that were not reported to police from 2005 to 2010, the victim gave the following reasons for not doing so:

- 20% feared retaliation
- 13% believed the police would not do anything to help
- 13% believed it was a personal matter
- 8% reported to a different official
- 8% believed it was not important enough to report
- 7% did not want to get the perpetrator in trouble
- 2% believed the police could not do anything to help

- 30% gave another reason, or did not cite one reason

These statistics are important because they speak to the misconceptions that victims of sexual assault, as well as parts of the general population, have about law enforcement. Typically, advocates have a very close working relationship with law enforcement (Rape Victim Advocates, 2018). This working relationship means that advocates are spending a lot of time with patrol officers and investigators, both responding to victims and teaching them appropriate and thoughtful ways to approach victims who have experienced sexual violence (Rape Victim Advocates, 2018).

This working relationship with law enforcement and advocates can create an easier reporting process for a victim. First, it is important to note that when and if a victim does report to law enforcement, they are guaranteed the right to have an advocate accompany them to that interview (Rape Victim Advocates, 2018). This accompaniment creates a sense of comfort and ease for the victim, because they know that they will be protected from all the things they think an officer may do wrong. It also can give them a small sense of security that the officer will listen and will act on the report, because an advocate is present (Rape Victim Advocates, 2018).

Advocates can also help with facilitating follow up interviews with law enforcement and the victim (Rape Victim Advocates, 2018). Typically, law enforcement speaks to a victim for the first time while they are at the hospital and within the week following the assault, they will schedule a follow up interview with the victim (Rape Victim Advocates, 2018). This follow up interview is necessary in order to give the victim time to process their trauma, recall memories from the night of the assault, and to follow up with more detail they may have forgotten to provide with the initial interview (Campbell, 2006). Following this interview, law enforcement will collect information from other witnesses, the perpetrator, as well as collect any other

physical evidence associated with the case, such as bed sheets, blankets, clothing, etc.

(Osterburg, 1968). Advocates assist victims by checking in with law enforcement throughout this evidence collection process and change over from the police and prosecuting attorney's office (Rape Victim Advocates, 2018). This creates and maintains an open stream of communication between the victim and the police, which can facilitate a relationship of trust and patience for the victim.

Criminal Trial

Following an investigation, once all evidence and testimony has been collected, law enforcement transfers the case to the prosecuting attorney's office, which is typically referred to as a County Attorney or a District Attorney (Osterburg, 1968). This research will refer to this position as the County Attorney. After receiving the case, the County Attorney decides whether or not there is enough evidence to prove that the crime is prosecutable (Osterburg, 1968). This can typically be a very tense time for the victim because, up until this point, they could have waited a long time for their case to be transferred to the County Attorney (Campbell, 2006). It is the advocate's responsibility to stay in tune with the case throughout this transference (Rape Victim Advocates, 2018). If the case is declined for prosecution, typically an advocate would call the County Attorney to ask for a simple reason as to why the County Attorney felt that the case was not prosecutable, should the victim ask. If the case is prosecutable and charges are filed, the advocate begins trial preparation if a plea deal is not possible (Rape Victim Advocates, 2018).

Some County Attorney's offices have positions called victim-witness coordinators (The National Center for Victims of Crime, 2012). This role assists the office with coordinating victims of crime to participate with the prosecution of criminal cases (The National Center for

Victims of Crime, 2012). However, while this role is instructed to provide all necessary documentation and information to the victim to assist with their cooperation, they are not mandated to prepare the victim to testify in front of the person that has abused them (Campbell, 2006). Throughout the criminal trial process, victims typically face their abuser twice: during depositions and during the trial (Rape Victim Advocates, 2018). During both the deposition and the trial times, the victim is guaranteed the right to have a victim's counselor present, under Iowa law (IA Code § 915.20A).

The preparation for criminal prosecution is a multi-layer process. As an advocate in Dubuque, Iowa, my process may look different from others. First, advocates are to be transparent with a victim about what they may expect during depositions and during a criminal trial. Expectations during depositions must ALWAYS include the disclaimer that the victim's perpetrator has a constitutional right to be present in the room when depositions are given. It is also important to inform the victim that, although this individual has the right to be present, they do not have the right to question the victim or speak to them, even to say hello. This preparation also includes the structure of a deposition and what kind of questions the defense attorney may ask during. Expectations for a criminal trial can include the overall structure of the process, the number of people in the courtroom during testimony, questions that either the prosecution or defense may ask, who is and is not allowed in the courtroom at certain times, what the victim may have at the stand with them when they testify, and breathing exercises that encourage calmness. This preparation also includes the advocate keeping the victim up to date on case changes, date changes, and other just general updates that come from the County Attorney's office. This, again, creates an open stream of understanding and communication between these two individuals: the County Attorney and the victim.

This preparation is important because it addresses all of the “unknowns” that arise with the criminal justice process for someone who has never participated in it. It allows the victim to ask the questions that they want to know before it is too late. It allows them to be fully prepared for what they can come to expect, that way they are not taken off guard. This preparation can also decrease a lot of the anxiety and fear involved with testifying in a criminal trial or giving a deposition because it takes away the sting of the unknown. This knowledge can create a sense of calm and confidence for a victim, which is needed when facing the person that has so viciously harmed another.

During depositions and a criminal trial, advocates can be a creator of calm and ease for the victim, because typically at this point, the two have been working together for several months (IACASA, 2017). Advocates can assist the victim in the moments before and after their testimonial experience (IACASA, 2017). This assistance can be with emotional support, breathing exercises, distracting conversation, or just general peer comfort (IACASA, 2017). During their testimonial experiences, advocates are limited to what they can say or do (IACASA, 2017). During depositions, advocates can prompt breaks if they feel as though their client is struggling and may need a moment, but during trial, this is not the case (IACASA, 2017). They can be present in the room and can be a totem of calm and reassurance in the crowd, but can't generally assist the victim directly (IACASA, 2017). However, with ample preparation and trust, this assistance isn't typically necessary.

Overall, advocates tend to play a more involved victim-witness coordinator role, however this role is one that has only two interests in mind: keeping the rights of the survivor protected and ensure that the victim is calm and taken care of (IACASA, 2018). Advocates are only working on behalf of the victim, while maintaining collaborative efforts with all other

participants (NEIOWA SART, 2018). Advocates represent and protect the well-being of the victim throughout the entire criminal trial process. It is before the actual trial that an advocate has the ability to make the most impact on a victim's experience and how they may perceive the criminal justice system.

Section 6

Conclusion

The creation and implementation of victim's advocacy services, although considerably still in its infancy as an overall movement and right, has broadly made an impact on victim experience, prosecution of perpetrators, and an overall safer environment for victims throughout their decades of existence (Camacho & Alarid, 2008). In their research, Camacho and Alarid (2008) found that a coordinated community response, like SARTs, and a diverse set service providers, such as sexual assault victims' advocates, serve as effective tools toward achieving a safer environment for individuals who live in an atmosphere plagued with fear and threat of sexual violence.

According to a study done by Camacho and Alarid (2008), victims who actively received support and services from a victim's advocate consistently were involved in cases where the defendant was more likely to be found guilty. In fact, this study credits that the case outcomes were 14.4 times better when advocacy services were offered, utilized, and maintained (Camacho & Alarid, 2008). Similarly, if advocates offered information on or assisted with civil no contact orders, or protective orders, in the early stages of services, perpetrators were 3.5 times more likely to be sentenced to a term of incarceration (Camacho & Alarid, 2008).

Research from the *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment, and Trauma* (Murphy et al., 2011) shows that “many challenges sexual assault survivors face in the criminal justice system stem from the perspective of the crisis center advocate.” This research also emphasizes the importance of “coordinated community response” in order to help a victim effectively and successfully navigate the criminal justice system (Murphy et al., 2011). This coordinated community response is reflected in the implementation of sexual assault response teams. These teams utilize each participant’s role and, to the best of their abilities, advance the mission of each participants’ organization. This successful navigation also has the likelihood in improve the overall response to gender-based violence in the criminal justice system, which can improve victim perception of the system, their ability to participate in it, and overall case outcomes (Murphy et al., 2011).

Advocate participation in multidisciplinary teams like Sexual Assault Response Teams as well as their maintenance of a victim-centered approach when working with victims of sexual assault, no matter the capacity, also has significant impact on the response that a victim has to the criminal justice system (Murphy et al., 2011). The role of an advocate and their early involvement with victims also speaks to this collaborative effort to improve prosecutorial cooperation. Research conducted by Christina Camacho and Leanne Alarid (2008) examined the significance of victims’ advocates for victim cooperation during the criminal prosecution process.

This research has provided many examples that prove the efficacy of advocacy on victim experience, victim witness cooperation, and prosecutorial success. These examples range from an advocates influential participation in the multidisciplinary teams that craft a coordinated community response, the positive influence that proficient advocacy training has in order

positively effect a victim's perception on the criminal justice system, and how early emotional and support based intervention resources overall proving a be a substantial prediction to victim cooperation and successful case outcome (Camacho & Alarid, 2008).

This advocacy, as referenced in the research, encompasses providing information on victimization, providing emotional support to victims, providing information on their legal rights and protections, providing information on the criminal justice system, and providing safety planning help (National Center for Victims of Crime (2012). All of these resources advance the idea that emotional support, early intervention, adequate information, and well trained advocacy groups can predict victim cooperation and successful case outcomes in criminal sexual assault cases. Providing information on victimization allows the advocate to, not only become aware of the victim's trauma history, but to validate that with information and resource so that the victim may address their traumas (Rape Victim Advocates, 2018).

Providing emotional support couples the providing of information on victimizations. After providing the different resources associated with the explanation of trauma, it is important to facilitate the different modalities associated with the specific trauma needs of a victim (Rape National Center for Victims of Crime, 2012). Facilitating these modalities, whether that be breathing exercises, journaling, or meditation can assist the victim in their own search for emotional soothing, but also build rapport between the victim and the advocate (National Center for Victims of Crime, 2012). Providing these modalities and facilitating them is just one form of emotional intervention and support that facilitates positive case outcome and prosecutorial success (Camacho & Alarid, 2008).

Providing information on rights of the victim and the criminal justice system creates an open and transparent relationship between the client, advocate, and system (National Center for

Victims of Crime, 2012). As stated, a victim's criminal justice experience is largely based on the service providers' biases and feelings toward the system (Murphy et al., 2011). When a service provider accurately and knowledgeably shares information with a victim about the criminal justice system and the process for which a criminal trial takes place, the victim feels more comfort with the system and is therefore more likely to participate in it (Rape Victim Advocates, 2018). By sharing with the victim what their rights are in this system, provides a sense of safety and comfort for the victim, which encourages them to trust the system, cooperate as a witness, and in turn, have a more successful case outcome (Camacho & Alarid, 2008). Finally, in their research, Camacho and Alarid (2008) discovered that victim cooperation, after the arrest of their perpetrator coupled with the services provided by an advocate, were strong predictors of victim cooperation at disposition, an overall improved case outcome, and prosecutorial success. These services, provided early on, were even more influential on these outcomes of success (Camacho & Alarid, 2008).

Again, advocates that provide information on safety planning also combat the fear, trauma, and victimization associated with environmental and atmospheric control, fear, and terror related to sexual violence (Camacho & Alarid, 2008) (National Center for Victims of Crime, 2012). This safety planning can take place in the form of applying and obtaining a civil no contact order, facilitating emergency rehoming for the victim, requesting extra police surveillance around the victim's home, or even changing the locks on the victims door (Camach & Alarid, 2008) (IACASA, 2017). This form of emotional relief, support, comfort, and service provides a safe path for a victim to participate in a trial against their perpetrator without fear of retaliation and reprimand by their abuser (Camacho & Alarid, 2008). By creating this sense of

comfort, support, and relief, advocates are increasing the likelihood that a victim will actively cooperate with a criminal trial which would lead to a higher likelihood of prosecution and incarceration for that perpetrator (Camacho & Alarid, 2008).

This research, time and time again, has evaluated the elements of sexual assault as a violent and manipulative crime. Due to the nature of this crime, the elements associated with the way in which perpetrators gain access to their victims and convince them to hold their secrets only perpetuates the importance of early emotional intervention by victim service providers, like advocates, as well as a coordinated community response to react appropriately and maintain safety for the community and the victim (Camacho & Alarid, 2008). As proven by Camacho & Alarid (2008) in conjunction with this research, the combination of strong advocacy services as well as organized multidisciplinary teams that create a coordinated community response have significant positive impact on a victim's emotional experience following a sexual assault, their perception of the criminal justice system when reporting their assault, their likelihood in cooperating as a witness against their perpetrator, and finally, overall impact of case outcome leading to incarceration.

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