

# County of Cambria



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## Office of the District Attorney

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February 24, 2011

Dear Colleague,

I would like to invite you to an important full-day training seminar designed to introduce Cambria County's new SANE/SART Program and familiarize first responders with the newly revised Sexual Assault Protocol that now includes a method for Anonymous Reporting of Sexual Assault.

This full day multi-disciplinary training will provide a forum for responders and other community professionals to get to know one another, foster collaboration, and increase their comfort in working together to provide a victim-centered and holistic approach to the crime of sexual assault.

The presentation will outline the procedures involved with the criminal investigation of sexual assault cases involving adult victims. All aspects of the initial response will be covered including the role of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners; the collection and control of forensic evidence; the medical examination process; legal issues; legal rights of the victim; and response procedures by the police, victim advocates, and SANEs.

Survivors of rape and other forms of sexual assault rely on you – law enforcement officers, nurses, physicians, victim advocates, mental health service providers, and prosecutors--to treat their physical, psychological and emotional wounds and provide them with justice throughout each step of the very difficult recovery process.

In the criminal justice system, we rely on you to provide the necessary medical care, emotional support and evidence collection to help identify, prosecute and convict offenders – crucial steps toward ensuring a sense of peace and security in the life of the survivor and the community at large.

No matter what role you play within the process, your work is invaluable to the victim's healing and in holding offenders accountable. *This makes you one of the most important people in the survivor's recovery process.*

The SANE/SART training program will help all of us work together to better serve and protect Cambria County citizens from the painful effects of sexual assault. I hope you can join us.

Very Truly Yours,

Kelly Callihan  
Cambria County District Attorney

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#### Assistant District Attorneys

Tamara R. Bernstein  
Elizabeth Bolton Penna  
Michael A. Carbonara

Gary L. Costlow  
Forrest B. Fordham, III  
Eric D. Hochfeld

Gary A. Jubas  
Wayne Langerholc, Jr.  
Jessica F. Aurandt

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**CAMBRIA COUNTY SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM (SART)**  
**Sexual Assault and Anonymous Reporting of Sexual Assault**  
**Protocol Training**

**8:30-9:00: REGISTRATION AND LIGHT REFRESHMENT**

**9:00-9:15: The Importance of a Sexual Assault Response Team** *A brief overview of victim-centered team response.*

**9:15-9:45: The Role of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners** *SANEs will walk the audience through the medical response from the time a patient/victim presents at the ER through evidence handling and possible SANE testimony in prosecution.*

**9:45-10:45 The Role of Victim Advocates** *Victim Services and Women's Help Center will conduct a joint presentation on the unique psychological perspectives associated with Intimate Partner Sexual Violence and Battered Women's Syndrome and explain the role of the advocacy response from initial contact in the ER, through safety planning, counseling, and court accompaniment.*

**10:45-11:00: BREAK**

**11:00-11:30: The Role of Law Enforcement** *Law Enforcement and Prosecution will conduct a joint presentation on evidence challenges faced in investigating and prosecuting sexual assault cases and the importance of a collaborative victim-centered response.*

**11:30-12:00: The Importance of Establishing a Method for Anonymous Reporting** *Overview of Anonymous Reporting Protocol.*

**12:00-1:00: LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED**

**1:00-2:00: Mock Sexual Assault Investigation and Trial** *Attendees will be asked to investigate and try a moot sexual assault case.*

**3:00-4:00: Discussion** *Moderators will be on hand to guide an interdisciplinary discussion on the new protocol.*

To attend, please complete the registration form and mail to  
Cambria County District Attorney, Attn: Eileen Springer, Director of Development, 200 S. Center Avenue, Ebensburg PA 15913  
or fax it to 814-471-7134, or e-mail to [espringer@co.cambria.pa.us](mailto:espringer@co.cambria.pa.us), or call 814-472-5440 ext. 6213.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

AGENCY \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_



**PLACE AN "X" IN THE BOX NEXT TO THE TRAINING YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND:**

**Wednesday, March 16, 2011**  
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown  
Heritage Hall  
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 22, 2011**  
Saint Francis University  
JFK Conference Center Lounge  
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The SART approach to sexual assault and the option of Anonymous Reporting is now the policy in Cambria County. It is strongly recommended that law enforcement supervisors, detectives, health care professionals, advocates, school officials and other likely responders attend this training program.

*This training is supported a grant awarded by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 VAWA STOP Funding and is a coordinated effort by the following agencies: Cambria County Office of the District Attorney, Johnstown Police Department, Victim Services, Women's Help Center, and the SANE Program at Conemaugh Hospital.*