In addition to volunteering for our 24/7 crisis services, advocates have the opportunity to participate in additional free trainings and attend SARC outreach events. We also have ongoing in-office projects and community outreach events we appreciate our advocates’ help with. SARC advocates have the opportunity to network with other professionals in the field and experience all aspects of working with a sexual and domestic violence community agency.

**Interning with SARC**

SARC partners with many local colleges and universities for both undergraduate and graduate internships. Interns will have the opportunity to gain direct field experience and be a part of a coordinated community response to sexual assault.

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**Benefits of Volunteering with SARC**

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**GET HELP**

Call our offices at 302-273-1300

or our 24-hour helpline at 800-773-8570
to access our services.

- 24-hour helpline crisis and intervention
- Accompaniment to hospital, police or court
- Aftercare follow-up case management
- Individual and group sexual assault counseling
- Referrals to community resources
- Interpreters are available if you need services in another language

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**Volunteer or Intern with SARC**

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**Information on becoming a Sexual Assault Response Advocate**

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The **Sexual Assault Response Center** is a rape crisis center in Delaware. The center is committed to providing healing, hope, and empowerment to individuals whose lives have been impacted by sexual violence. SARC provides comprehensive, free and confidential rape crisis services and community awareness and prevention services.

If you are interested in volunteering or making a donation, please visit our website at [www.ywcade.org/sarc](http://www.ywcade.org/sarc)

**Sexual Assault Response Center**

**YWCA Delaware**

Robscott Building
153 E. Chestnut Hill Road, Suite 102, Newark, DE 19713

Georgetown Professional Park
20155 Office Circle, Suite 2, Georgetown, DE 19947

Phone: 302-273-1300 | Fax: 302-224-4057

We provide services throughout Delaware.

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*This program is funded through the Delaware Criminal Justice Council by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women.*
WHAT IS A SARA?

Sexual Assault Response Advocates, or SARAs, provide support to survivors of all forms of sexual and domestic violence through trauma-informed, survivor-centered care. Our advocates staff the 24/7 Helpline and accompany survivors to medical and legal services.

SARA Roles and Responsibilities Include:

 ✓ Answer the 24/7 Helpline
 ✓ Respond to the hospital, police station, or courthouse for accompaniments
 ✓ Assist Helpline callers respectfully, carefully, and in an empowering manner
 ✓ Participate in required training and apprenticeship
 ✓ Conduct safety, suicide risk, and lethality assessments when appropriate
 ✓ Provide crisis intervention, support, and resource referrals to callers and clients
 ✓ Participate in SARC events and outreach opportunities as needed or desired

WHAT IS the process for becoming an advocate?

Advocates first have an initial interview with a SARC coordinator so we can learn more about you and you can learn more about volunteering and if being an advocate is right for you. After completing all of the training requirements, new advocates go through a person of apprenticeship where they are given support answering the Helpline and go on a mentored accompaniment with a SARC staff member.

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT are the requirements to become an advocate?

 ✓ All of our advocates must be at least 18 years or older
 ✓ Complete all required online and in-person trainings
 ✓ Obtain a state of Delaware background check
 ✓ Advocates must additionally have a private, secure computer and wifi; the ability to operate a computer and our web based crisis software; and a secure telephone with call waiting or two available secure phones
 ✓ Advocates who volunteer for medical and legal accompaniments must be able to provide their own transportation to the hospitals, police stations, and court houses in their county.

CAN I be an advocate if I have personal experience with sexual assault?

Having personal experience with sexual or domestic violence doesn't mean you can't be an advocate. Before signing up to volunteer, consider your own experiences and if you are ready to support someone in crisis. Crisis advocacy work can be triggering and extremely emotionally difficult for survivors of sexual or domestic violence. For most survivors, having a period of recovery and counseling is necessary before working in crisis intervention. If being an advocate is not right for you at this time, there are other ways to support SARC and our work.

WHAT is the time commitment for advocates?

We ask that once advocates, once they have complete their training, to sign up for shifts at their own availability. Each day is broken into four standard six-hour shifts for both the Helpline and on-call for accompaniments that are open to all advocates to fill. There is no minimum or maximum number of shifts advocates are required to take, we only ask to do what they can. We encourage new advocates to sign up for weekly or bimonthly shifts to reinforce the skills learned in training.