

Sexual Assault Victim Services

by Alison Drain

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1. The Family Support Center – a nonprofit organization located in Chippewa Falls. Services are available to domestic violence and sexual assault victims. There are also two extension offices that assist sexual assault victims. The Center for Awareness of Sexual Assault, or CASA, is located on the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire campus, and the Family Support Center Sexual Assault Outreach is located in downtown Eau Claire on Barstow Street. We provide one-on-one counseling, medical advocacy, legal advocacy, support groups, a 24- hour hotline, and outreach and awareness. Services are FREE and confidential. For more information please call 715-830-0188 or visit our website www.chippewafallsfsc.org.
2. What I do – one-on-one counseling, legal advocacy, medical advocacy, support groups, outreach and awareness, and prevention education.
3. Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault ("WCASA") – Does training and Legislative Agenda.
4. First Sexual Assault Response Team in Eau Claire ("SART") – First responders putting together best practices to work with victims of sexual assault.
5. Child Advocacy Center – does interviews of children that are abused.
6. Sexual Assault Awareness Month – Art Show at The Goat Coffee House the entire month of April featuring local artist work in a silent auction. The theme is "The Art of Healing: A Victim's Journey to Recovery."
7. Differences between sexual assault, abuse, and consent:
 - a. Sexual Abuse - manipulate or trick a child into sexual contact, intercourse, or looking at inappropriate materials, such as movies and magazines.
 - b. Sexual Assault - force or coerce sexual intercourse or contact.
 - c. Age of Consent - 16 touching; 18 sexual intercourse.
8. Fact or Myth:
 - a. Fact: One in four women will be sexually assaulted by the time they are 18 years old.
 - b. Fact: One in six men will be sexually assaulted by the time they are 18 years old.
 - c. Fact: 10% of sexual assaults are committed by strangers.
 - d. Fact: 78% of victims are under the age of 18.
 - e. Fact: Sexual assaults generally take place in the victim's or offender's home.
9. Why would someone do this – power and control over another person.
10. Affects of sexual assault and abuse:
 - a. PTSD.
 - b. Anger.
 - c. Numbness.
 - d. Depression.
 - e. Anxiety.
 - f. Flashbacks.



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- g. Nightmares.
 - h. Shame.
 - i. Guilt.
11. Other affects:
 - a. Borderline Personality Disorder.
 - b. Anti-social Personality Disorder.
 - c. Chronic Pain.
 - d. Pregnancy.
 - e. AIDS and STI's.
 - f. Low self-esteem.
 12. Unhealthy coping strategies:
 - a. Drug and alcohol abuse.
 - b. Eating disorders.
 - c. Self mutilation.
 - d. Suicide attempts.
 - e. Promiscuity or other unsafe behavior.
 - f. Behavioral problems.
 13. Dealing with the abuse:
 - a. Tell someone.
 - b. Get counseling and learn healthy coping skills.
 - c. Develop support network.
 14. What to do if someone was just sexually assaulted – if the sexual assault or abuse has occurred within 72 hours of the disclosure direct him or her to the hospital to get a Sexual Assault Nurse Exam (SANE) immediately! Tell them not to shower and to bring the clothes that they were wearing when the assault or abuse occurred.
 15. How you can get involved:
 - a. Donating money.
 - b. Volunteering.
 - c. Attending fundraisers.
 - d. Talking to your kids.
 - e. Family Support Center Endowment Fund.