



Sexual Abuse Response and Prevention Resource Guide
Pursuant to Public Act 102-0676, [105 ILCS 5/2-3.188](#)¹

Mental Health Evaluation and Services for Victims

Mental health services are available to survivors and their families who are alongside them in their healing journey. It is the intention of this section to expand on the mental health evaluation and service resources available through Children's Advocacy Centers and Illinois sexual assault centers, described earlier in this guide and in Appendices 1 and 2.

988

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis or thoughts of suicide, call or text 988 to reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. The [988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#)¹² is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, seven days a week in the United States.

Safe2Help Illinois

The state of Illinois has developed a school safety program called Safe2Help Illinois in an effort to raise awareness of 21st-century threats facing schoolchildren in Illinois. Safe2Help Illinois is a 24/7 program in which students can use a free app, text/phone, and [website](#)¹³ to share information on school safety issues. Once vetted, that information will be shared with local district and school officials and/or local PSAP/911 call center, depending on the nature of the information shared. Call: 844-4-SAFEIL (844-472-3345), text SAFE 2 (72332), or email: HELP@Safe2HelpIL.com.

Accessing mental health care in Illinois schools is best done by contacting the school or district's support personnel – usually a school social worker, school counselor, or school psychologist. The role of these individuals is to support students and families with a variety of services related to mental health, accessing care in and outside of the school, and occasionally crisis intervention. Sometimes school support personnel may provide a student with individual therapy sessions during the school day, but typically they support the student and family in obtaining needed services outside of the school.

Funding mental health care is different for every family. As noted earlier, CACs and Illinois sexual assault centers provide therapy and counseling to survivors at no cost. Many Illinois families rely on Medicaid for their health insurance coverage, which includes behavioral health care. More information about this coverage is included on an [Illinois Healthcare and Family Services website](#)¹⁴ may provide additional information.

The Service Provider Identification & Exploration Resource¹⁵ (SPIDER) SPIDER is a free, comprehensive resource identification database for the state of Illinois. SPIDER connects service providers, individuals, families, and communities to useful and timely social service resources. It includes detailed information on more than 1,700 agencies and over 4,200 social service programs. The SPIDER link contains contact information and a list of the services offered by organizations that provide mental health evaluations and services to victims and the families of victims of child sexual abuse. All agencies and programs are geo-coded to allow users to locate programs near them. The application is a collaborative effort sponsored by the DCFS, with data maintenance and user support provided by the Northwestern University/Hospital Feinberg School of Medicine, technology resources provided by the Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology, and information provided by countless child and family welfare service providers across the state of Illinois. Users can conduct searches on SPIDER by language, including English, Spanish, and Polish. PLEASE NOTE: The information listed in the SPIDER is solely based on self-reported information provided by the respective agencies and programs.

The Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Mental Health¹⁶ has a number of additional resources for accessing mental health services, partners, resources and support, including contact information and a list of the services offered by organizations that provide mental health evaluations and services to victims and the families of victims of child sexual abuse. Additional mental health providers are listed by the division's [Office Locator webpage¹⁷](#).

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a type of violence that is sometimes related to child sexual abuse. Similar to sexual assault centers and Children's Advocacy Centers, there are dedicated domestic violence service provider organizations in Illinois providing counseling to children and families impacted by this issue. Visit the website of the **Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence** to find a [full listing¹⁸](#)

Medical Evaluations and Treatment Available for Victims of Child Sexual Abuse

Survivors of child sexual abuse seeking medical care should visit their local hospital emergency department and the staff will provide immediate medical attention. It may be beneficial for survivors to seek medical treatment because they may have injuries they are unaware of. Survivors may also have been exposed to sexually transmitted infections or, if applicable to their body, be at risk of pregnancy.

Sexual assault center advocates can help you navigate the medical services offered to survivors. Medical care is available to protect a survivor's health and to collect evidence of the assault. If a survivor goes to the emergency room, the survivor can choose to have a physical exam, medical treatment, and collection of evidence process. Sexual assault center advocates can come to a hospital, if the survivor wishes, and stay with the survivor throughout the process to answer questions and provide support. The advocate can also help the survivor navigate the post-exam process of follow-up care and make sure the survivor is not billed for emergency room services.

The local hospital emergency department staff will provide immediate medical attention. However, not all emergency departments offer evidence collection by medical personnel who specialize in sexual assault services. In some cases, a survivor will be offered a transfer to a hospital that is approved to perform sexual assault evidence collection. Those approved hospitals will also provide a voucher that can cover the cost of follow-up care. The Sexual Assault Survivors Emergency Treatment Act (SASETA) (410 ILCS 70/) governs the medical care provided to any survivor of sexual assault visiting any emergency room in Illinois. More information about this law, including a listing of hospitals and the type of approved plan they have on file with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), can be accessed by visiting an [IDPH webpage](#)²². This page includes updated contact information and a list of the services offered by organizations approved by the State of Illinois to provide medical evaluations and treatment to victims of child sexual abuse.

Consent forms may be signed during a visit to a hospital with an approved plan under SASETA to allow the medical personnel to examine, treat, administer medication, collect evidence, and to release information to the police. Survivors of any age can consent to medical treatment for sexual assault/abuse and evidence collection, but only survivors 13 and older can consent to releasing evidence for testing. A medical provider [Note: while this is often a nurse (SANE), it could also be a physician or physician assistant (SAFE) or child abuse pediatrician] will explain the exam procedures to the survivor and will be present throughout the exam. More information about SASETA is available on the Illinois [Attorney General's website](#)²³.

¹⁵<https://spider.dcf.illinois.gov/>

¹⁶<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=29735>

¹⁷<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?module=12>

¹⁸<https://www.ilcadv.org/get-help/>

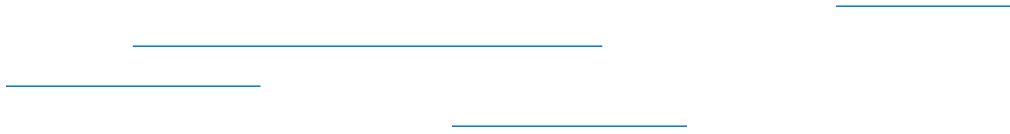
¹⁹<https://www.nctsn.org/what-is-child-trauma/trauma-types/sexual-abuse>

²⁰<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/trauma-toolkit/victims-sexual-abuse>

²¹<https://www.nctsn.org/resources/culture-and-trauma-brief-promoting-culturally-competent-trauma-informed-practices>

²²<https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/health-care-regulation/hospitals/saseta.html>

²³https://ag.state.il.us/victims/saimplementationtaskforce/OAG_Medical_Forensic_Exam_Brochure_12.27.2021.pdf



Thank you to the many stakeholders across Illinois who contributed to the writing of this guide. Questions about Faith’s Law or this document can be directed to faithslaw@isbe.net.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Children's Advocacy Centers

Appendix 2 - Sexual Assault Centers

Dark blue header bar

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



Center Name	Address	City	Zip	Phone	Website	Email
Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault	415 W. Golf Rd., Ste 47	Arlington Heights	60005	847-806-6526	www.nwcasa.org	cestrada@nwcasa.org
* Northwest CASA at the Heartwood Center	1818 Dempster St.	Evanston	60202	847-806-6526		asynnestvedt@nwcasa.org
* The CARE Center of McHenry County	4508 Prime Parkway	McHenry	60050	815-671-4004		of_ce@nwcasa.org
Mutual Ground, Inc.	418 Oak Avenue	Aurora	60506	630-897-0084	www.mutualground.org	mmeyer@mutualground.org
Stepping Stones Sexual Assault Services - YWCA McLean County	1201 N. Hershey Rd.	Bloomington	61704	309-585-3618	www.ywcamclean.org	jgolliday@ywcamclean.org
Survivor Empowerment Center	610 S. Thompson St.	Carbondale	62901	618-549-4807	www.eeempoweringsur	Bloomington g 610 S. Thompson C E i ww Center

! Bl
E
Ce

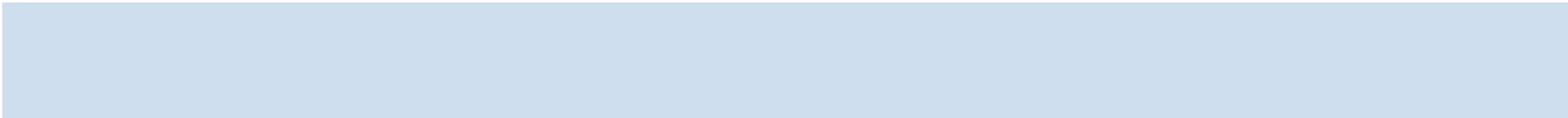
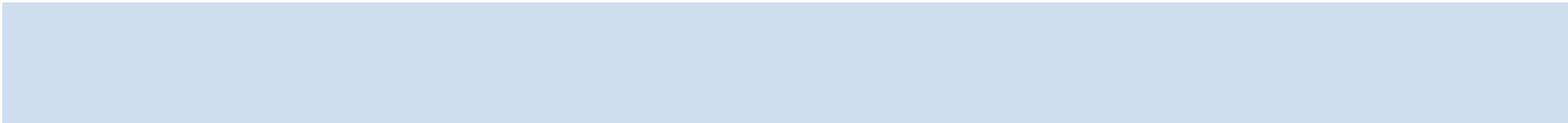




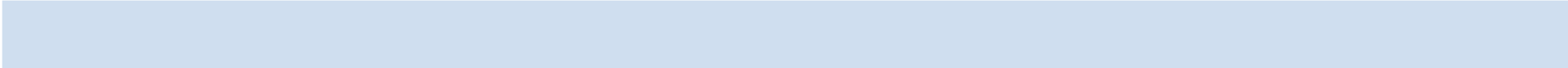




--	--	--







Center Name	Address	City	Zip	Phone	Website	Email
* Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault	215 W. Main Cross	Taylorville	62568	217-824-9895		jodyclark@prairiecenter.org
YWCA of the Sauk Valley	412 First Ave.	Sterling	61081	815-625-0333	www.ywsauk.org	rmunoz-ripley@ywsauk.org
* YWCA of the Sauk Valley	98 S. Galena Ave.	Dixon	61021	815-288-1232		rmunoz-ripley@ywsauk.org
Safe Journeys	510 N. Bloomington St.	Streator	61364	815-673-1522	www.safejourneysillinois.org	susanb@safejourneysillinois.org
* Safe Journeys - Pontiac Outreach	308 E. Torrance Ave.	Pontiac	61764	815-844-0982		
* Safe Journeys - Ottawa Office	633 LaSalle St., Ste 403	Ottawa	61350	815-673-1552		susanb@safejourneysillinois.org
* Safe Journeys	2823 Fourth St.	Peru	61354	815-673-1552		susanb@safejourneysillinois.org
Metro East Every Survivor Counts	28 Bronze Point, Ste B	Swansea	62226	618-397-0975	www.metroeasteverysurvivorcounts.org	metroeast.every.survivor.counts@gmail.com
* Metro East Every Survivor Counts	3129 State St.	East St. Louis	62205	618-271-8990		sharrell@metroeasteverysurvivorcounts.org
* Metro East Every Survivor Counts	535 Edwardsville Rd., Ste 120	Troy	62294	618-667-3350		ejurke@metroeasteverysurvivorcounts.org
Rape, Advocacy, Counseling & Education Services (RACES)	301 S. Vine, Ste 211	Urbana	61801	217-344-6298	www.cu-races.org	executive.director@cu-races.org

Center Name	Address	City	Zip	Phone	Website	Email
Sexual Assault & Family Emergencies	1410 Sunset Dr., Ste G	Vandalia	62471	618-283-1414	www.safecrisiscenter.org	safe@safecrisiscenter.org
* Sexual Assault & Family Emergencies	730 E. 2nd St.	Centralia	62801	618-283-1414		safe@safecrisiscenter.org
* Sexual Assault & Family Emergencies	1901 S. 4th St.	Ef ngham	62401	618-283-1414		safe@safecrisiscenter.org
* Sexual Assault & Family Emergencies	4114 N. Water Tower Place, Ste G	Mt. Vernon	62864	618-283-1414		safe@safecrisiscenter.org
* Sexual Assault & Family Emergencies	276 N. Main St.	Breese	62230	618-283-1414		safe@safecrisiscenter.org
Arab American Family Services	7000 W. 111th St.	Worth	60482	708-599-2237	www.aafsil.org	ishalabi@aafsil.org / ntaha@aafsil.org