



Office of the Texas Governor

Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force

First Responder Sexual Assault Guide

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"An officer's duty to uphold the oath includes the commitment to provide a survivor-centered, trauma-informed response to sexual violence through a multidisciplinary, collaborative and coordinated approach."

~ Texas Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force

An empathetic and trauma-informed law enforcement response in the first moments of a sexual assault victim's attempt to get help can have a positive impact on the victim's ability to participate in the investigative process and can contribute to the survivor's healing and recovery.

Pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section [772.0064](#), the Governor's Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force (SASTF) was mandated to provide law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction over sexual assault or other sex offenses information and resources to maximize effective and empathetic investigation, including resources on best practices that are based on knowledge of trauma and how trauma impacts victims/survivors.

The SASTF's ***First Responder Sexual Assault Guide (Adult)*** provides best practices for law enforcement's initial interactions with an adult sexual assault survivor by incorporating a trauma-informed, victim/survivor-centered, and offender-focused response. This guide is meant to help the first responding law enforcement officer fulfill their critical role and responsibilities during the initial interaction with the adult sexual assault survivor to minimize secondary trauma and effectively engage them in the criminal justice process.

The ***First Responder Sexual Assault Guide*** was developed through a multidisciplinary, collaborative approach that included law enforcement professionals, sexual assault survivors, sexual assault advocates, and prosecutors. We offer sincere thanks and gratitude to the SASTF Law Enforcement Working Group for creating this guide.

This new guide is posted on the [Governor's website](#) and is being disseminated statewide to law enforcement agencies and organizations. The guide is available in print and digital formats, and as a pocket information guide. If your agency plans to post the guide to your website, we kindly ask you to link the Governor's website as periodic updates may be made to content.