

# Sexual Assault Scenarios

## Scenario One

### **Instructions**

*Using the materials provided, groups must create a visual representation of how their system currently responds. This can be done in a variety of ways including pictures, graphics, flow charts, etc. Please focus on what really would really happen during a response to the scenario, rather than describing an ideal response.*

*Be very specific and indicate who/what agency does what and within what time frame. Points of interaction, communication, and coordination among different agencies and professionals must be included. The way in which the interaction or communication occurs should also be specifically described, e.g. via phone, in person, after a certain period of time, etc.*

*During the mapping process, identify “tension points” where improvement is desirable. These areas can include points of confusion, disagreement, or uncertainty that the group identifies. The points can be marked with a different color, have a symbol next to them, be tracked on a separate page, etc.*

It is 4:00 am Sunday. The [**Law Enforcement**] Dispatch Center receives a call from [**Medical Facility**] stating that a woman (Sheila) has just arrived there, accompanied by her roommate (Marie). The caller says that Sheila is very upset and claims to have been raped by a man she met at a bar. [**Law Enforcement**] Dispatch Center dispatches an officer to [**Medical Facility**]. Sheila decides to report the incident to law enforcement.

**What would the current response look like?**

**Who would be involved in the response and what role would each of them play?**

**What information is passed from one responder to the next and how is it passed on?**

**What is the process for hand-off of victim contact?**

**Using the materials provided, develop a visual representation of your current response.**

## Scenario Two

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Four weeks ago, Sheila went out on a date at [**Bar or Restaurant**] with a man she met at work. After they had dinner and drinks, the man took her to his house and raped her. She didn't report the rape at the time, but after receiving support from her family and friends she decided to call the [**Law Enforcement**]. Sheila told an officer that she is worried that everyone will find out about the rape. She also said she is afraid that the man might retaliate against her when he finds out she reported the rape.

**What would the current response look like?**

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**What is the process for hand-off of victim contact?**

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Sheila had gone out on a date with a man she met at work. After dinner and a couple drinks, the man brought her home and raped her. Two days later, Sheila calls the [**Sexual Assault Advocacy**] hotline. This is the first time she has told anyone what happened to her. After consulting with an advocate, Sheila decides to report the incident to law enforcement.

**What would the current response look like?**

**Who would be involved in the response and what role would each of them play?**

**What information is passed from one responder to the next and how is it passed on?**

**What is the process for hand-off of victim contact?**

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## Scenario Four

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Sheila returns home at about 2:00 a.m. after a date with a man she met at work. When she gets home, she wakes her roommate, Marie. Marie sees that Sheila is upset and crying. When Marie asks what is wrong, Sheila tells her she was raped by the man. Marie calls 911 and reports the incident. [**Law Enforcement**] Dispatch Center dispatches an officer in response to Marie’s call. Sheila decides to report the incident to law enforcement.

**What would the current response look like?**

**Who would be involved in the response and what role would each of them play?**

**What information is passed from one responder to the next and how is it passed on?**

**What is the process for hand-off of victim contact?**

**Using the materials provided, develop a visual representation of your current response.**

Developing a victim-centered response to sexual violence involves informing our protocols and policies with the best expertise in the field and knowing how and when to adapt our response to fit the unique needs and circumstances of a specific victim/survivor or case. By following these seven ‘simple rules’ each and every time we respond to sexual violence, responders can create a victim-centered response.

## **Consider the victim first.**

The victim and their unique needs and abilities should be considered first.

## **Listen generously.**

Listen with belief; acknowledge the violation. Listen with patience; walk with survivors as they determine their own path. Listen with compassion; give voice to the victim’s experience. Listen with faith; believe in the victim/survivors’ resilience. Listen to understand the victim/survivor’s own goals for safety, healing, and seeking justice. Listen generously to victim/survivors, colleagues, team members, community members to affect the change we seek. Create safe places for people to tell their stories.

## **Promote victim self-agency.**

An agent is “one that acts or has the power or authority to act.” Promote victim self-agency by offering the support and information that victims/survivors need to act in their own best interest relative to the unique circumstances of their lives. For a victim/survivor in crisis, work to re-engage or increase their own coping abilities to the point decision-making is again possible. Engage, consult, and inform a victim/survivor about decisions that will affect her or him. Informed decision-making means the victim/survivor knows what could be gained or lost in the options available to him or her.

### **Coordinate and collaborate in the victim's interest.**

Coordinating disparate and fractured elements of a response can improve a victim/survivors' experience and lead to better cases. Coordinating primarily in the system's own interests can re-victimize victims/survivors and jeopardize case outcomes.

### **Ensure victim-safety.**

Ensure victim/survivors have the information, resources, and supports to be or move toward safety. This can include access to confidential services, privacy protections, access to legal remedies for protection, notification of an offender's release, and consideration of the unintended consequences to victim/survivors of the policy and procedural decisions we make.

### **Seek just solutions for all.**

Be honorable, fair, lawful, suitable, and free from bias.

### **Hold self and others accountable.**

Be able to explain and answer for our own actions and decisions. Ask others to do the same.

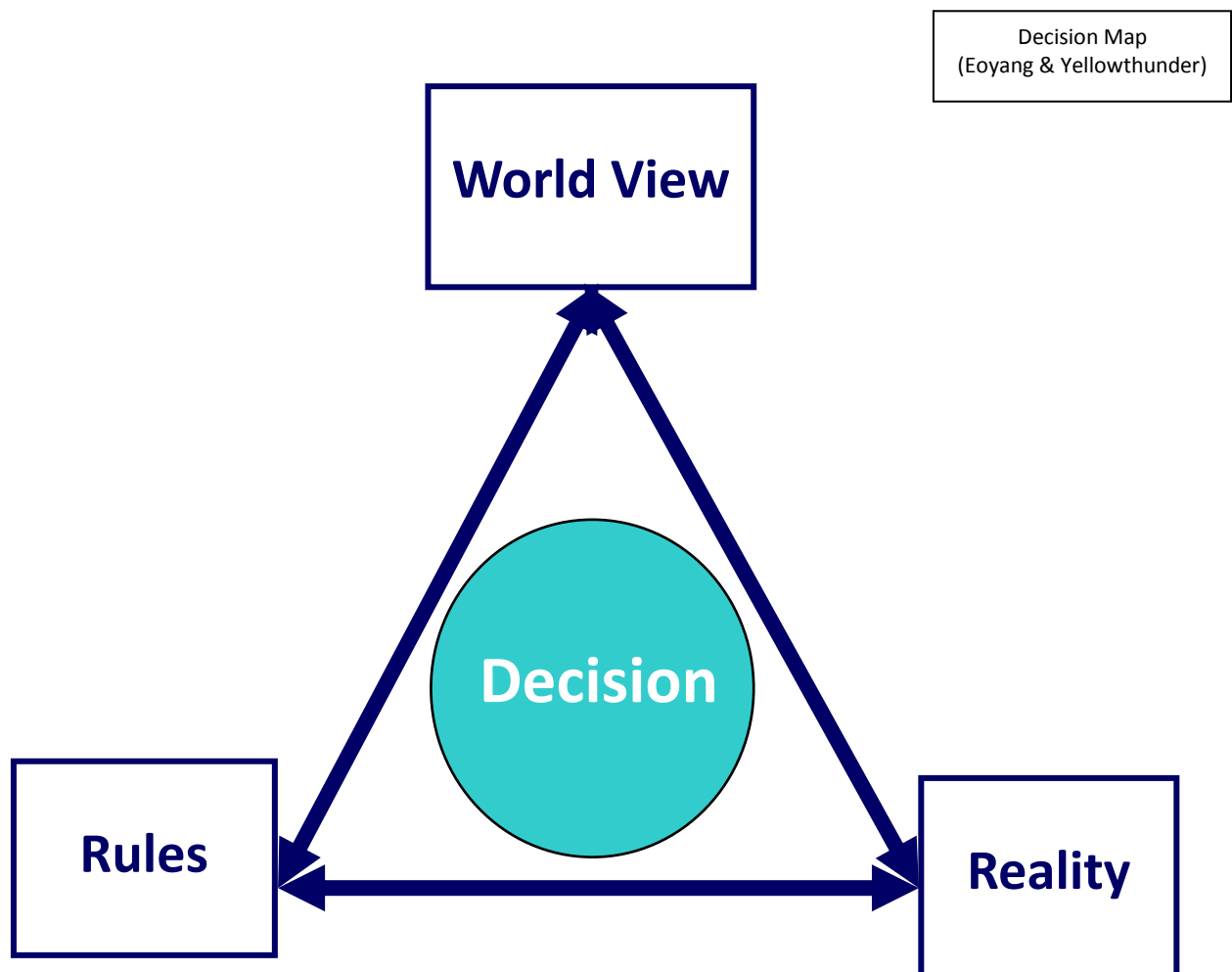
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# How Do We Align Our Approach to Serving Victims/Survivors?

Different disciplines bring to the table different points of view, constraints, approaches, and experiences with sexual assault and victims/survivors. These are functions of three factors:

- The view of the world that we hold (given our personal beliefs, discipline training, etc.)
- The rules that we are bound by (both formal and informal)
- The reality of the situation we are facing, or general realities



The table below is meant to provide an example, and may not necessarily be reflective of the decision maps of a given individual or discipline.

<b>DISCIPLINE</b>	<b>WORLDVIEW</b>	<b>RULES</b>	<b>REALITY</b>
<b>Law Enforcement</b>	Public Safety	Elements of a crime Chain of command	Little physical evidence Not all victims report to LE
<b>Prosecution</b>	Public Accountability	Law Legal precedents	Juries uneducated about sexual assault
<b>Advocacy</b>	Victim Empowerment	Confidentiality Privilege Professional ethics	Resource challenges Multiple needs of victims
<b>Medical</b>	Patient Well-being	Confidentiality HIPAA Professional ethics	Disclosure as a process Dual exam purpose
<b>Corrections/ probation</b>	Offender Accountability	Monitoring	High caseload Varying beliefs about offender treatment

1. What does victim-centered mean/look like in my own discipline?

2. In the disciplines of my team members?

3. Where/what are the differences?

4. Where/what are the similarities?