

# Serving Survivors of Sexual Assault

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**VICTIM  
RIGHTS  
LAW CENTER**

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# Today's Presenter



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Technical Assistance

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# VRLC's TA Team is Here to Help!

Expert Advice

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Consultation

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Mentorship

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Programmatic  
Support

Crafting  
Policies

Document  
Review

Legal  
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Resources

By Email: [ta@victimrights.org](mailto:ta@victimrights.org)

Online: <https://victimrights.org/request-ta/>

Resource Library: <https://victimrights.org/resource-library/>

# Housekeeping Items

- Questions / using a microphone for accessibility
- Mentimeter Instructions
  - Anonymous
  - Scan QR Code
  - Go to [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com) and type in code

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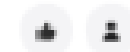


(select one)

# What kind of program do you work for?

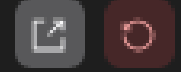


- Legal aid
- Statewide SA Coalition
- Statewide DV Coalition
- Dual DV/SA Coalition
- Culturally Specific Program
- DV Program
- SA Program
- Tribal Program
- Other

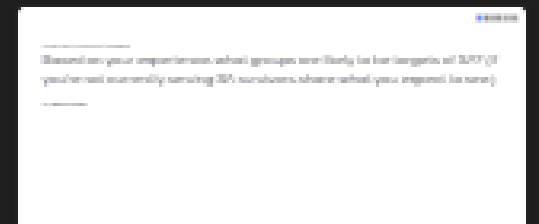
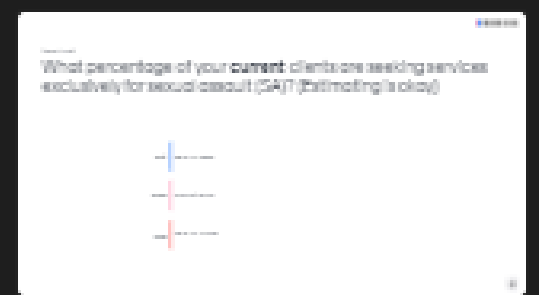
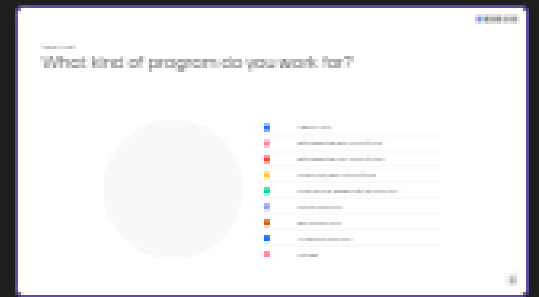


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## Choose a slide to present



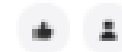
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(select one)

What percentage of your **current** clients are seeking services exclusively for sexual assault (SA)? (Estimating is okay)

- 1st 25% or less
- 2nd About 50%
- 3rd 75% or more

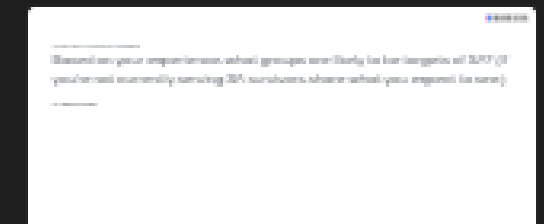
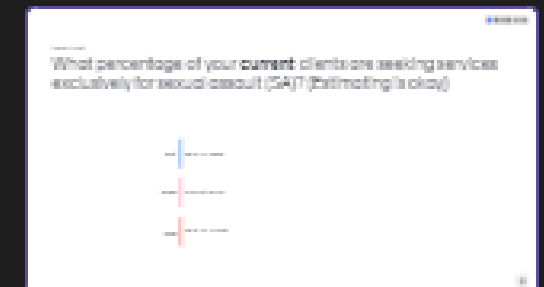
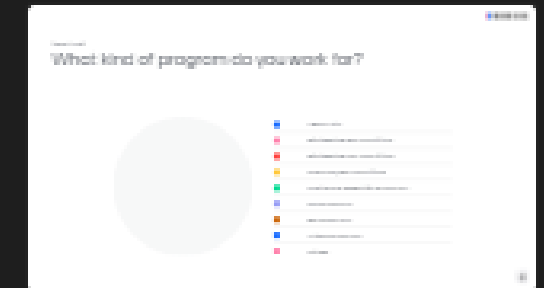


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# Learning Objectives

1

Understand the unique barriers SA survivors face when obtaining legal services

2

Identify ways to overcome barriers and improve your services to SA survivors

3

Create a robust network of referral and partnerships to support your SA clients

4

Be able to develop a plan for targeted outreach to SA survivors

# Identifying and Understanding the Unique Needs of SA Survivors



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Type one or more short answers

Based on your experience, what groups are likely to be targets of SA? (If you're not currently serving SA survivors, share what you expect to see.)

All responses to your question will be shown here

Each response can be up to 200 characters long

Turn on voting to let participants vote for their favorites



V

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What kind of program do you work for?

What percentage of your current clients are seeking services exclusively for sexual assault (SA)? (Distorting is okay)

Based on your experience, what groups are likely to be targets of SA? (If you're not currently serving SA survivors, share what you expect to see.)

# Individuals who are ...

Minors

Limited English Proficient

Transgender

Living in Poverty

Experiencing houselessness

Undocumented

Living with intellectual or developmental disabilities

Incarcerated or detained

Older/ younger

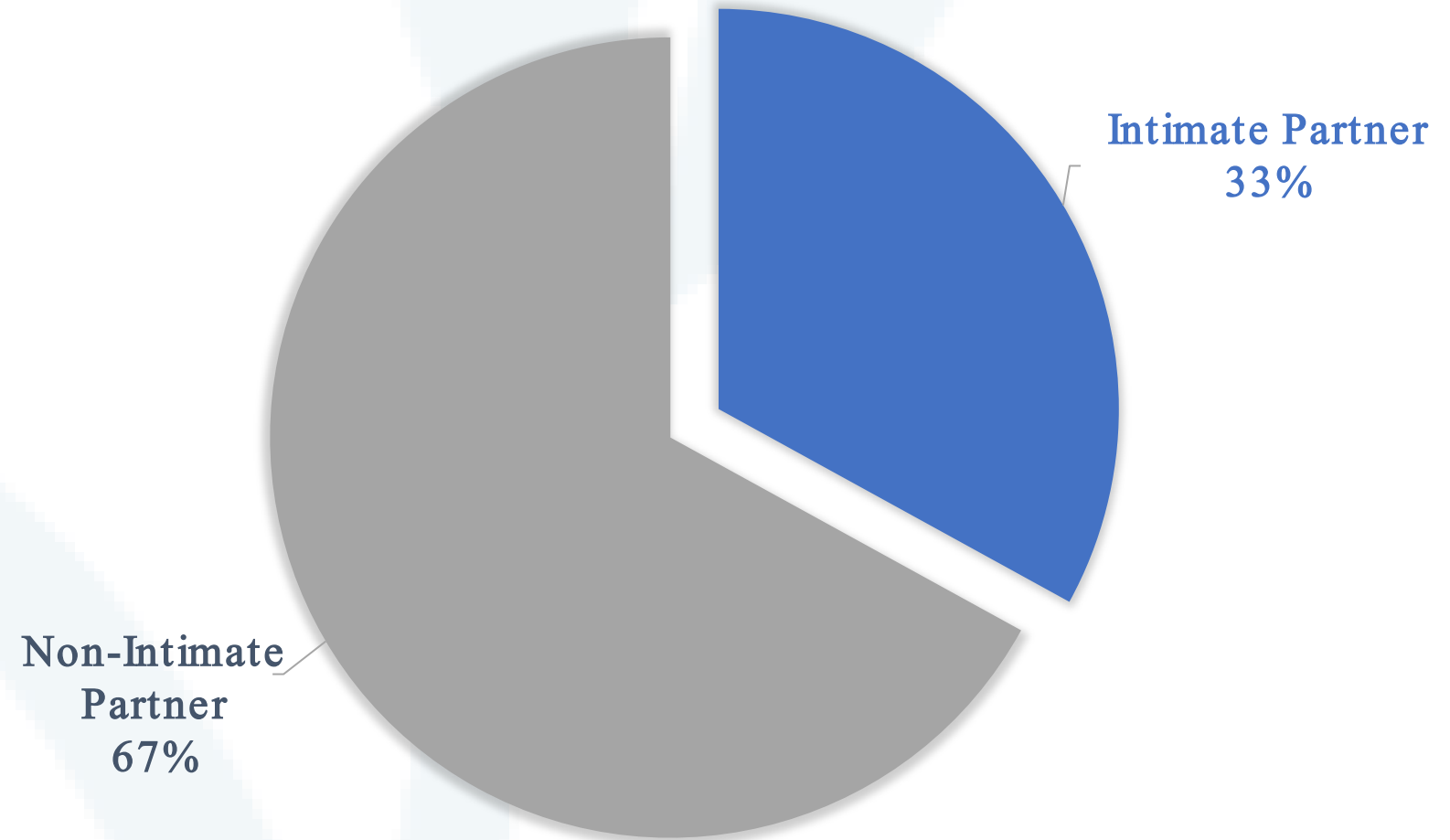
History of mental health needs

Criminal History

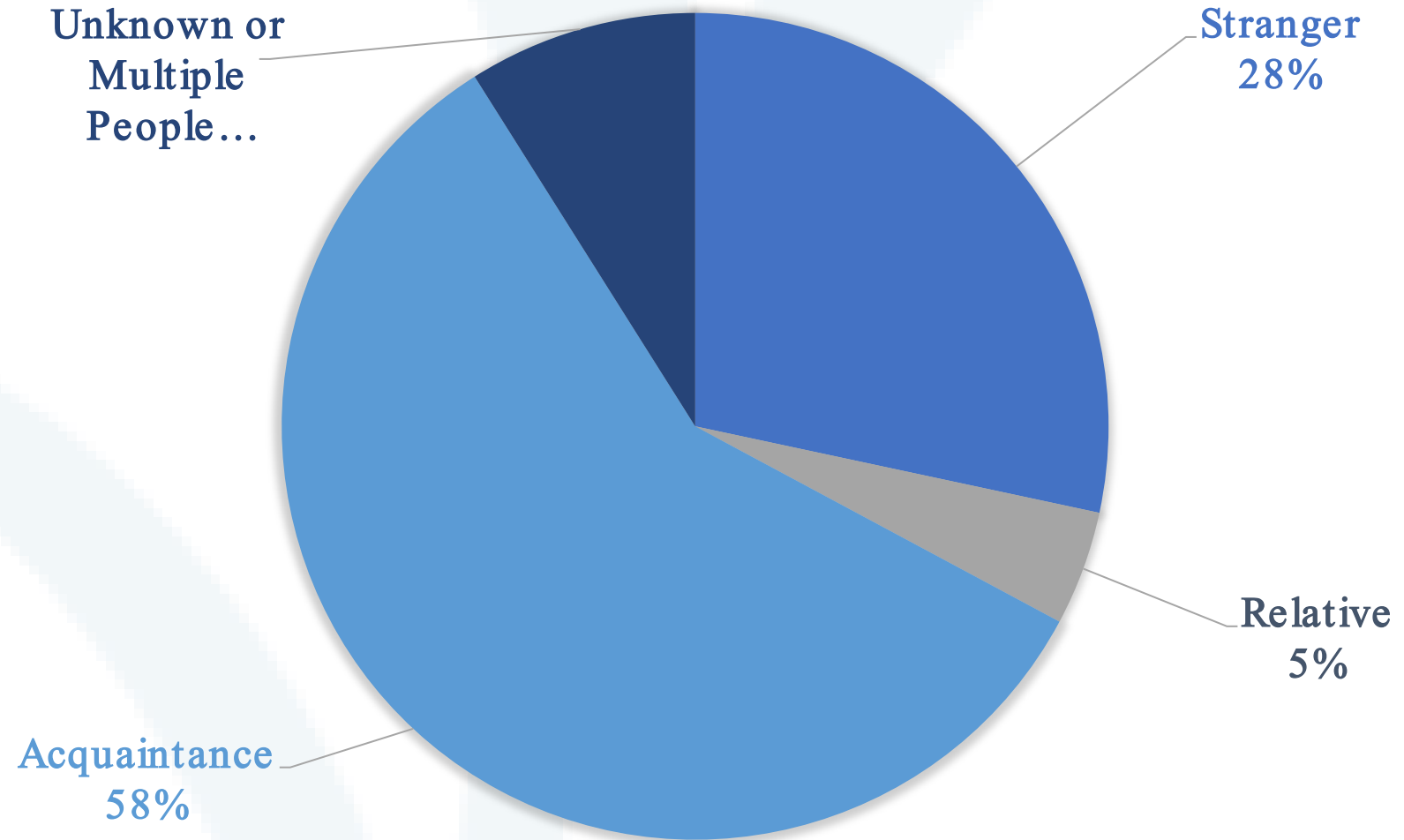
Living in a residential facility

Prior victimization

# Perpetrators in Cases of Sexual Assault



# Perpetrators in Cases of Non-Intimate Partner Sexual Assault



# Meeting the Needs of SA Survivors

## Similarities

- Need survivor-centered and trauma-informed services

## Differences

- Age of survivors
- Support systems
- Funding/available services
- Type of legal needs
- Legal options

# Survivor-Centered and Trauma-Informed Legal Services

## Survivor-Centered

- Survivor Led
- Intersectional
- Recognize and Acknowledge Harms
- Empathetic

## Trauma Informed

- Safety
- Trust and Transparency
- Support
- Collaboration and Mutuality
- Empowerment, Voice, and Choice
- Intersectionality

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# What are some of the types of legal issues that you see (or anticipate seeing) come up for SA (only) survivors?

All responses to your question will be shown here

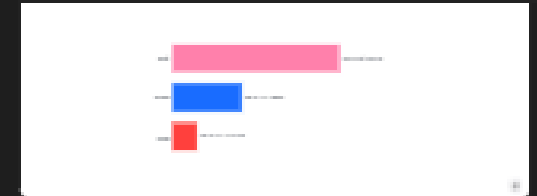
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Based on your experience, what groups are likely to be targets of SV? (if you're not currently serving SV survivors, share what you expect to see)

What are some of the types of legal issues that you see (or anticipate seeing) come up for SA (only) survivors?

Which areas are your organization currently equipped to provide legal support for?

# Legal Needs of Sexual Assault Survivors



Safety



Housing



Education



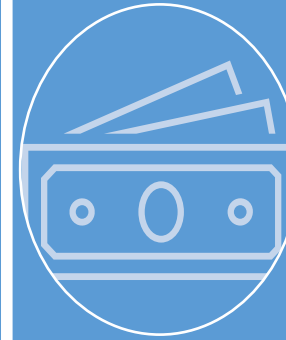
Employment



Privacy



Criminal  
Justice  
Advocacy



Financial  
Stability



Immigration





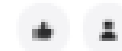
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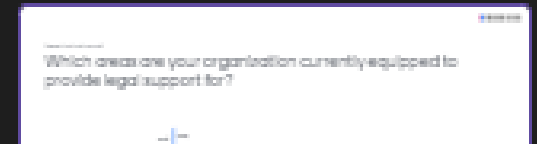
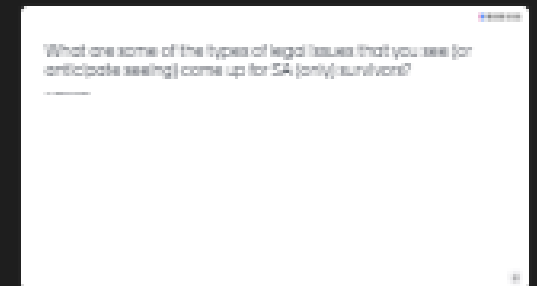
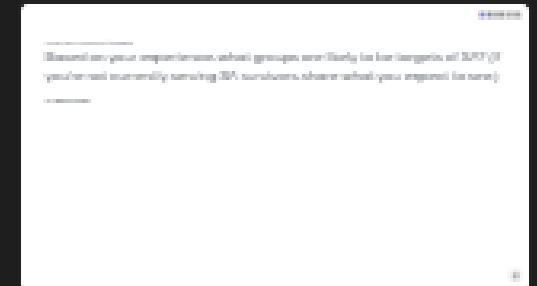
# Which areas are your organization currently equipped to provide legal support for?

- 1st Safety
- 2nd Housing
- 3rd Education
- 4th Criminal justice advocacy
- 5th Financial considerations
- 6th Immigration
- 7th Privacy



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# Barriers to Service

# Identifying Barriers to Services for SA Survivors

# Types of Barriers to Service

Societal Barriers

Organizational Barriers

Partnership Barriers

# Societal Barriers

- Impact of ongoing and historic marginalization and oppression
- Stigma
- “Consent Defense”
- Personal consequences faced by the survivor

# I did not report because ...

- “I knew I would be blamed, or not believed.”
- “They say it can't happen to men.”
- “I was too drunk to remember.”
- “My parents would have killed themselves if they ever found out.”
- “He was a police officer.”
- “The first time I tried telling someone they asked what I was wearing. It was an orange bikini. I was 12.”

# Organizational Barriers

- Priority areas
- Practice area limitations
- Outreach and accessibility
- Age or other limiting factors
- Lack of internal understanding
- Lack of preparedness to address SA
- Funding restrictions

# Partnership Barriers

- Community-based services and population-specific organizations
- Domestic violence service providers
- Lacking relationships with partners who serve SA survivors
- Unclear or burdensome referral processes
- Lack of formal or informal MOUs





# Dismantling Barriers to Create a Successful SA Legal Program

# Dismantling Barriers



# Creating SA Inclusive Policies/Procedures

- Review Case Priorities
  - Expand accepted legal matters to address SA needs
  - Ease restrictions on age or other limiting factors
- Include SA-specific training of part of agency onboarding and training plans

# Creating SA Inclusive Policies/Procedures, cont'd.

- Intake
  - Screens for *all* SA legal needs
  - Train intake staff on community partners SA survivors may need referrals to
  - Limit the details of the assault requested/ensure survivor doesn't have to repeat their story multiple times

# Shifting Organizational Culture

- Staff at all levels should understand the differences/challenges unique to SA legal services
- Get buy-in at all levels to shift your case and client priorities to meet SA survivors' **demographics**
- Make sure you and your team are comfortable discussing sex and sexual assault
- Make sure your website, social media, and other materials show competency with SA matters

# Website Evaluation

Domestic violence

Based on keywords in your message, it sounds like you are looking for help with domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault or abuse. Is that correct?

# Website Evaluation (2)

**Hi! My name is Gem!**

I'm a chatbot (not a human). I can't give you legal advice or be your lawyer. But I can answer questions about Idaho Legal Aid's services and help you find things on our website! I do best with short sentences and questions...what can I help you find?

I was raped

Hmmm....I'm not sure I understand. I need a little help sometimes. Can you say it in a different way? I understand the best when people ask me short questions or tell me one thing at a time instead of "the whole story."

For example, you can ask me "What are the hours?" and I will understand but if you say "My landlord is trying to evict me. I am so glad your services are free. What hours are you open?" I will get confused and not know what to say.

# Education and Expertise

- Develop expertise in new legal areas
- Identify mentorship opportunities to support expanded legal services
- Work with TA providers that have SA expertise
  - (Tip: VRLC can be part of that plan)



Reflecting –

Are we best poised to support this survivor?

Who else may they need support from to heal?

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(select all that apply)

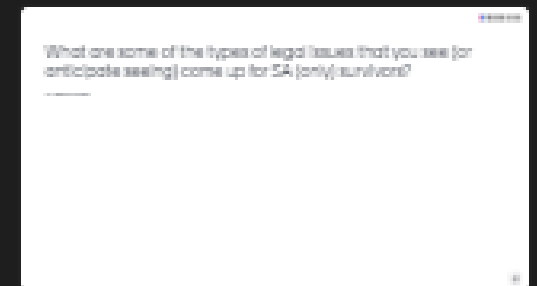
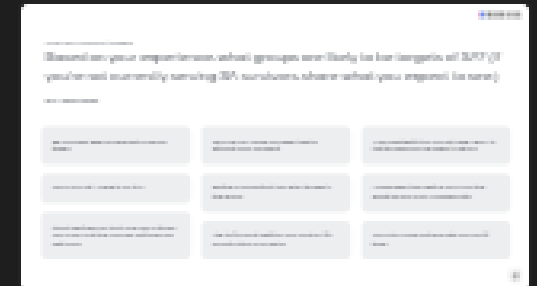
# Do you know where you would refer a SA survivor and how that referral would be made if they needed:

- 1st | Mental Health Support
- 2nd | Medical Care Related to SA
- 3rd | Immigration Concerns
- 4th | Supportive Housing
- 5th | Financial Assistance
- 6th | Substance Use Treatment



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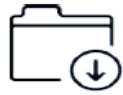
# Developing Partnerships that Lead to Successful Services

- Important questions to ask internally:
  - Who serves the population you are trying to reach out to?
  - What services do they offer? What gaps in services do they have?
  - How can you help them? What services do you offer that they need?
  - What is their reputation amongst survivors?

# Vet Your Partners

- Have a thorough understanding of each partner's:
  - Mission and goals
  - Strengths and weaknesses
  - Operating principles
  - Areas of potential conflict
  - Approach to privacy and confidentiality
  - Referral process

# Reach Out!



## Where to Start Toolkit

Action Plan for Connecting with Community Partners

Organization	Town	Staff Point Person	Date of Initial Contact	Goal Month for Meeting	Meeting Date Scheduled	Meeting Contact & Info	Date of Follow Up After Meeting	Materials Provided	Next Steps



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Type one or more short answers

After looking at the needs of SA Survivors, what are 1-2 things your agency may need to improve/take another look at?

All responses to your question will be shown here

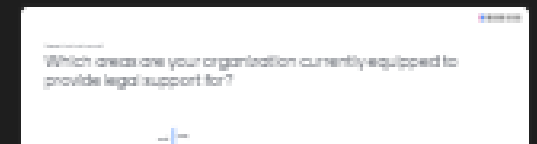
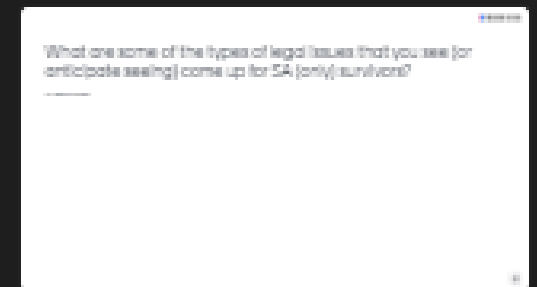
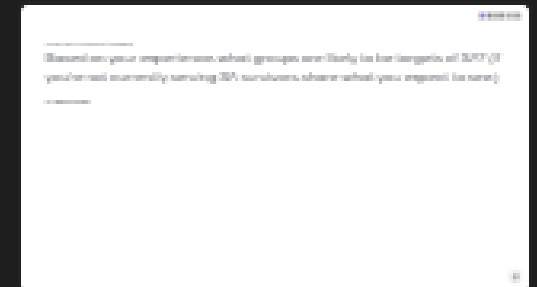
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# Developing a Successful Outreach Plan

# Successful Outreach Plan

1. Define parameters and goals
2. Craft and evaluate your message
3. Create a plan including internal players and external partners
4. Develop effective materials
5. Reach out!
6. Reconsider and Re-evaluate





# Defining Parameters

- What goals do you have for outreach? Are they S.M.A.R.T?
  - S - Specific
  - M - Measurable
  - A - Achievable
  - R - Relevant
  - T - Timebound
- Who is your target audience?
- What geographic or other boundaries must you consider?

# Creating an Outreach Plan

- Who are your key internal players? What are they each responsible for?
- What materials will you use?
- Who are your partners in this effort?
- What partnerships do you need to make for this to be effective? (SART nurses, campus staff, school admin, etc.)

# Develop Effective Materials

What is your message?

How are you communicating?

Are your materials accessible?

Who will be accessing your message?

# Messaging

~~Cute~~ ROMANTIC  
~~Flattering~~ Sweet  
~~Funny~~ CHIVALROUS  
~~NO BIG DEAL~~ Harmless  
~~UNREQUITED~~ LOVE

# STALKING

KNOW IT. NAME IT. **STOP IT.**

Learn more at [StalkingAwareness.org](https://StalkingAwareness.org)

**SPARC** STALKING PREVENTION AWARENESS AND RESOURCE CENTER

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Questions?



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# Explore VRLC's Resource Library!

The screenshot displays the VRLC Resource Library website. At the top left is the VICTIM RIGHTS LAW CENTER logo. The navigation menu includes HOME, ABOUT US, LEGAL HELP, TRAINING AND RESOURCES, MAKE AN IMPACT, and CONTACT. A DONATE button and a search icon are in the top right. The main heading is "Resource Library". Below the heading is a breadcrumb trail: Home · Resource Library.

**Search by Keyword**

**Filter by Category**  
Select a Jurisdiction:    
Select a Topic:    
Select a Population:    
Select a Language:    
Select a Format:    
  
[Reset the Form](#)

**Featured Resources**

-  [Initial Meeting Checklist for Minor Survivor/Clients and their Caregivers/Guardians](#)
-  [Safety Planning Guide for Middle and High School Student Survivors](#)

**Your Search Returned 353 Resources**

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# Feedback Questions (60 seconds or less)

- Do you feel like we had the right amount, too much or too little audience engagement?
- Was “Menti” helpful to staying engaged and applying the information?
- Other comment:

