

Palm Card Guidance

Introduction

Palm cards (named because they are roughly the size of the palm of one's hand) provide a discreet, pocket-sized resource guide for supportive care services; this type of resource offers a safe and confidential way to reach out to victims of sexual assault.

Law enforcement, advocates, sexual assault nurse examiners, and prosecutors can distribute palm cards to support sexual assault victims; these palm cards may also provide contact information and/or referrals to victim services.

Possible Uses for Palm Cards

- ◆ Replacement for a formal business card when there are concerns for a victim's confidentiality and safety.
- ◆ Supplement to the materials given to victims during cold case sexual assault victim notification or in subsequent interviews if the victim should request such a referral.

This National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Training and Technical Assistance (SAKI TTA) resource provides guidance to help multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) and/or sexual assault response teams (SARTs) design and implement the use of palm cards.

Format and Content

In addition to contact information for local resources, a palm card can include national resources (e.g., National Sexual Assault Hotline) as well as state-level resources (federally recognized state sexual assault coalitions or state Office of Victims of Crime) that provide support to survivors of sexual assault in their recovery.

To provide the best support for an entire community, translate content on the palm card into the predominate languages spoken in your jurisdiction to meet the needs of your locality. The MDT or SART members can work together to identify the most common languages in their jurisdiction and decide which languages to use for the palm cards. Examples include (but are not limited to) Spanish, Amharic, Mandarin/Cantonese, Korean, Arabic, Russian, French, Urdu, and Hindi.

On the SAKI-designed generic card template, you will find space to

- ◆ enter the names and contact information of individuals the victim will meet during interviews or hospital visits,
- ◆ include local advocacy resources, and
- ◆ write down questions a victim may have during their interactions.

Additional Considerations

This palm card does not replace the business card of the responding law enforcement officer; rather, a palm card can act as a supplemental resource for the victim when it might not be safe to provide a formal business card. Every law enforcement officer who interacts with the victim should identify themselves and their rank. The victim should receive the name of the officer assigned to their case as well as contact information (e.g., phone number, email address) so that the victim can reach out to the officer about any follow up questions or concerns.

Sample Palm Cards

SAKI TTA has created two sample palm cards as resources for practitioners and SAKI grantees. The first is a generic palm card template for practitioners. Please replace the content with your name, department, and telephone number. Follow the font, size, and weight guidelines as seen below.

We are here to support you.

Name: [Add name here. (Calibri, 12pt, Bold)]
Department: [Add department name here.]
Phone: [Add phone number here. (Calibri, Italic, 12pt)]

Learn more about your local resources.

National Sexual Assault Hotline
Provides support and referrals to local resources
800.656.HOPE (4673)

[Insert name of local Rape Crisis Center or Victim Advocate (Calibri, Bold, 10pt)]
[Insert goal of local organization. (Calibri, Regular, 10pt)]
[Insert phone number (Calibri, Italic, 10pt) (XXX.XXX.XXXX)]

SAKI grantees may find the second sample useful to show how additional information about a program or an organization can be included on a palm card. The SAKI program is highlighted in this sample, which includes additional resources available through SAKI TTA.

**National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Training and Technical Assistance (SAKI TTA)**

The SAKI TTA program offers expertise and assistance to jurisdictions as they establish sustainable practices for

- collecting and processing forensic evidence,
- investigating evidence from previously unsubmitted sexual assault kits,
- prosecuting cold case sexual assaults, and
- supporting survivors of sexual assault.

SAKI aims to create a coordinated community response that ensures resolution to sexual assault cases.

The SAKI TTA program develops resources to aid Sexual Assault Response Teams' trauma-informed responses and to assist survivors in having positive interactions with the criminal justice system.

SAKI TTA Resources

- **Practitioner Resource Briefs:** www.sakitta.org/resources
- **Survivor Resource Briefs:** www.sakitta.org/survivors
- **SAKI Toolkit:** www.sakitta.org/toolkit
- **SAKI Virtual Academy:** www.sakitta.org/virtual-academy
- **SAKITalk Newsletter:** www.bit.ly/SAKITalk_Signup
- **SAKI Webinars:** www.sakitta.org/webinars

This project was supported by Grant No. 2015-AK-BX-K021 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the SMART Office. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Author:

RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) is a dynamic organization comprising experts to provide the best-in-class services for survivors, inform and educate the nation about sexual violence, and improve the public policy and criminal justice response to sexual violence. The victim services experts at RAINN take a victim-centered, trauma-informed approach to developing programs and services that support survivors of sexual violence and their loved ones.

This project was supported by Grant No. 2015-AK-BX-K021 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the SMART Office. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice. **For more information, visit www.sakitta.org.**