



September 1, 2023

RE: Temporary adjustment in services at SARC-Oregon, 9/1/23 - 11/3/23

Dear Community,

We want to inform you of a temporary adjustment in services at the Sexual Assault Resource Center of Oregon, also known as SARC, from the period of September 1st-November 2nd, 2023. During this time, we will be pausing all our in-person hospital response services. This decision weighs heavily on our hearts and is not one that we have made lightly.

We recognize the concern that this adjustment might leave a temporary gap in advocacy for some survivors in Washington County. We are doing everything possible to ensure that there is open and transparent communication, and that our remaining core services are readily accessible for clients and community partners.

Our **24-Hour Support & Resource Line** will remain fully operational thanks to our sister organization, the Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS) in Lane County, Oregon, who will be answering our line from 4pm-8am on the weekdays and covering all weekend hours. This collaborative effort will help us maintain our commitment to being available around the clock for those who need support after a sexual assault.

The rest of SARC's core services will remain unchanged.

Case management, counseling, follow-up advocacy, and community education and prevention services will continue uninterrupted. SARC staff will be answering our 24-Hour Support & Resource Line and our general office line Monday-Friday from 8am-4pm.

If you are with a community partner organization and would like to make a client referral for follow-up services:

- Call SARC's general office line at (503) 626-9100 during regular business hours, or

- During weekends or after-hours, please leave a voicemail on our general office line; an advocate will reconnect within the next business day.
- You are also welcome to email the client referral information to sarc@sarcoregon.org. Please note in the subject line that this is a client service request.

If you are a survivor or someone impacted by sexual assault:

- Confidential advocates are here to provide resources, information, and support you through our 24-Hour Support & Resource Line at (888) 640-5311.
- If you would like to receive follow-up support from SARC, and live, work, or attend school, or the incident occurred in Washington County, reach out through SARC's general office line at (503) 626-9100, weekdays 8 am—4 pm, or please leave a voicemail and an advocate will connect with you the next business day.
- You may also drop-in for advocacy services with an on-site SARC Case Manager at the Family Justice Center of Washington County. The FJC is located at 735 SW 158th Ave #100, Beaverton, OR 97006. SARC Case Managers are available for walk-in advocacy Tuesday and Wednesdays from 9am-3pm and by appointment Monday-Thursday 8:30am-4pm.

During the next two months, we will continue to work with community partners to ensure that wraparound, confidential advocacy is still being provided to survivors in Washington County to the highest level possible. Please check sarcoregon.org and/or our social media platforms for updates.

We know that we are not the only organization to face staffing challenges recently, but together as a community we can ensure that those impacted by sexual violence are continuously supported. We are using this pause to strategically recruit for a larger advocate team and implement new program protocols that ground us deeper into the foundation of client-centered care that guides the mission of SARC and all the services we provide. We are optimistic that this time will allow us to regroup and return to serving the community, at full capacity, in November even stronger than before.

Our intent is to be as transparent as possible through this process. If you have questions about this temporary adjustment, please feel free to reach out to:

Suzanne Van Trieste, Director of Program Operations
Email: suzannev@sarcoregon.org

or

Brandy Selover, Executive Director
Email: brandys@sarcOregon.org

We want to thank you for your understanding and ongoing commitment to our shared mission of promoting social justice by eliminating sexual violence in our communities through education, advocacy, and support.

In community,

Suzanne Van Trieste

Director of Program Operations (She/Her)
Sexual Assault Resource Center (SARC)- Oregon

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