



WEAVE
OF KENT COUNTY

Working to End Assault & Violence for Everyone

**Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault with Intellectual and
Developmental Disabilities: A Guide for Parents, Guardians, and
Caregivers**

HOPE  NETWORK

moka 

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 **Thresholds[®]**
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with Developmental Disabilities"*

**eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca**



Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

If you suspect or need to report assault go [here](#) right now.

Or call the YWCA 24/7 Help line at 616-454-YWCA (9922)

The YWCA is here to help. All people are welcome here. The YWCA serves people of ALL ages and genders including men. The YWCA welcomes people of any age, education, disability, ethnicity, gender, height, income, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, or weight.

Table of Contents

What is WEAVE	3
About this Guide	4
Sexual Assault	4-5
Statistics	6
Risk Factors for Sexual Assault	7
Warning Signs of Sexual Assault	8
Grooming	9
Supporting Safety & WEAVE Perspective	10-11
Responding to Sexual Assault	12-13
Secondary Trauma & Self-Care	14
About the YWCA Nurse Examiner Program	15-18
YWCA Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Services	19-20
Getting to the YWCA & Directions	20-21
Legal Resources	21-23
Acronyms	24
Vocabulary	25-26
Citations	27



Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

What is WEAVE?

WEAVE is a collaboration of service providers in Kent County that specialize in disability services and sexual violence prevention. The five collaboration organizations involved in WEAVE are the YWCA West Central Michigan, MOKA, Spectrum Community Services, Thresholds and Hope Network Developmental and Community Services. In addition to the five WEAVE agencies, Pine Rest, public and family guardians and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) participated in the creation of this resource guide.

The mission of WEAVE is to examine and enhance systems for serving individuals with (I/DD) to reduce the risk of sexual violence and to better serve and empower individuals with (I/DD) who have survived sexual assault/abuse.

In 2012, the YWCA was awarded funding through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) Discretionary Grant Program. The three year project, "Education, Training and Enhanced Services to End Violence and Abuse of Women with Disabilities Program," is designed to facilitate local, systemic, and policy change through an intensive collaboration process. WEAVE's OVW funding was renewed in 2016 to continue the progress of addressing gaps in services and resources. WEAVE identified guardians of individuals with I/DD as an important link to preventing sexual assault and connecting survivors of sexual assault to services. In the spring of 2016 a Guardian Work Group was formed to create resources for guardians to support them in understanding the topic of sexual assault and the resources available in the community. Throughout the creation of this guide, the work group conducted multiple focus groups with guardians and self-advocates to best understand the needs in our community.

For more information about the history of WEAVE, check out the WEAVE Collaboration Charter, Needs Assessment Report, and Strategic Plan on the WEAVE tab of the YWCA West Central Michigan Website:

www.ywcawcmi.org



Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Why did WEAVE create this guide for guardians?

- Research shows that parents and guardians play an important role in prevention of sexual assault and in support roles for survivors of sexual assault.
- WEAVE's Needs Assessment and focus groups revealed that guardians in our community don't know about the YWCA Nurse Examiner Program.
- In focus groups conducted in 2017, guardians reported that they want information about sexual assault and community resources to be accessible online.
- Guardians reported that they need more support in order to talk about human sexuality and sexual safety with the individuals with I/DD whom they serve.

The goal of this guide is to provide information on the topic of sexual assault and the nurse examiner program to parents, guardians, and caregivers of people with I/DD to ultimately reduce the risk of sexual assault and barriers to services if sexual assault does occur.

What is Sexual Assault?

Sexual Assault is a variety of sexual actions that occur when someone does not or cannot give their consent. Sexual assault is often physical, but can be verbal, exposure to sexual material or anything that forces a person to experience unwanted sexual contact or attention. Examples include fondling, sexualized talk or teasing, forced kissing, sharing pornography or creating explicit sexual photos, looking at someone naked without their permission which is called voyeurism, any form of genital, oral or anal penetration including rape. Sexual Assault violates a person's trust and feeling of safety.

Sexual assault is NOT about sex or romance. Sexual assault does not know race, age, gender, class, sexual orientation, ability or disability. Anyone can be a victim of sexual assault.



Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Though it is true that some people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities may not be able to understand sexual interactions and give consent for sexual touches or actions, it is important that we recognize that not ALL sexual interactions of people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities are assaultive. Expressions of human sexuality are natural, and with the right support, many people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities can incorporate healthy romantic relationships into their lives.

Sexual assault is not about sex and romance; it is a crime and involves at least one of three main factors: 1) a power difference between the offender and the victim, 2) is unwanted or confusing, and 3) the sexual behavior is unwanted (or not consensual). Below is a further explanation of these three main factors:

1. **Power difference** between the assailant and the victim. A power difference can be based on the physical strength of the offender over the victim. This can be based on body size, age, or a physical disability of the victim. Power can also be based on a difference in authority, depending on the role the offender occupies in the life of the victim: an employer, a parent, a caregiver, a transporter or anyone that the victim may value or look up to, or be afraid of.
2. Sexually assaultive behavior is **unwanted or confusing**. A person does not have to physically resist a sexual act for it to be unwanted. Sex offenders often engage in “grooming” behaviors that can confuse the victim. Grooming behaviors are used to manipulate the victim to not resist assault and be confused about whether it is right or wrong for them.
3. Sexual assault is any sexual touch or action that the victim does not want or cannot give **consent** to. Consent means that a person is willingly giving permission, when the option to say no is a realistic option in the eyes of the individual. For example, if an offender threatens to harm a victim, and then asks them to consent to perform a sexual act, the victim really doesn't have the choice to give consent because they are fearing for their safety.

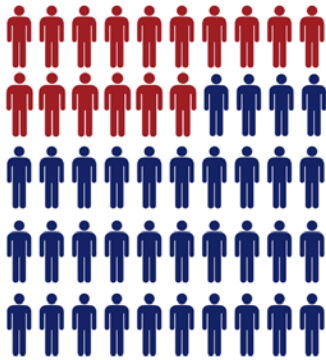


Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

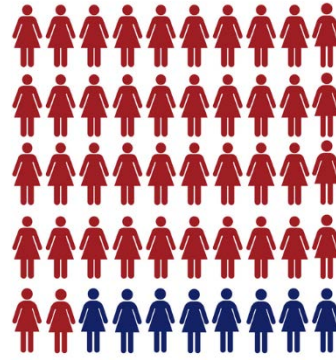
How often does Sexual Assault happen to people with disabilities?

Study after study has shown that people with disabilities are more likely to be victimized than people who do not have disabilities. A 2018 report by NPR reveals that people with intellectual disabilities are **7 times more likely to be sexually assaulted than people who do not have disabilities.**¹

- **49%** of people with intellectual disabilities will experience **10** or more sexually abusive incidents in their adult life.²
- **95-99%** of abusers are known to their victims.³
- As many as **83%** of women and **32%** of men with a developmental or intellectual disability will be sexually victimized within their lifetime.⁴



32% of Men with I/DD



83% of Women with I/DD

As a community, LGBTQ individuals face higher rates of poverty, stigma, and marginalization, which puts the community at greater risk for sexual assault. LGBTQ individuals may be targeted as part of a hate crime based on their sexual orientation and/or gender identity; with sexual assault being the most common experience among LGBTQ hate crime victims.





Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Why are people with disabilities sexually assaulted at higher rates than people without disabilities?

Unfortunately, our society has created many vulnerabilities for people with I/DD. Sex offenders specifically target people whom they can more easily threaten or manipulate. People with I/DD are at an increased risk for sexual assault. There are many reasons, such as:

- Caregivers often teach and reward compliance. Individuals with I/DD are often taught not to say no.
- Depending on others for care, money, medications and access to resources increases the chance for threats, isolation and manipulation.
- Living in group settings (such as adult foster care homes, residential facilities, hospitals) can confuse ideas about personal space and boundaries.
- Depending on others for assistance with daily living activities (such as bathing, eating, dressing, using the restroom) decreases a person's expectations for privacy.
- Mobility and communication challenges may make it difficult to escape abuse or ask for help.
- People often wrongly assume that individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities are not credible, have poor memory or misunderstand what happened.
- Sexual perpetrators specifically target people who are vulnerable and dependent. They may use tricks, manipulation, bribes, pressure, threats, force or violence to control their victim





Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

What are the warning signs of sexual assault?

Each person is unique and reacts to sexual violence differently based on his or her experience. Some warning signs of *possible* abuse may include:

- Changes in mood or behavior.
- Resisting touch or a change in comfort with touch.
- A noticeable increase in self-soothing behaviors.
- Increased sexual behaviors (some examples may be: masturbation, change in clothing preferences, attempting to sexually touch others, conversations or questions).
- Unexpected gifts, money or other items (abusers often use bribes).
- New behavior showing an avoidance of certain people, places or activities.
- Appearing highly sedated, overmedicated or disoriented.
- Pointing to or reporting pain in areas of the body that could be part of a sexual assault (throat, breasts, genitals, anal region or generic “stomach ache”).
- A noticeable change in hygiene and/or self-care activities.
- Difficulty sleeping, including nightmares or a change in sleep habits





Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

What is “grooming behavior?”

Many sex offenders will engage in “grooming” behaviors over a period of days, weeks, or months before an assault. Offenders use grooming to increase a person’s vulnerability and ensure silence. Grooming behaviors may seem harmless on the surface, but are tools to manipulate a potential victim. Here are some examples:

- **Giving the individual treats, gifts, or money** that can be used as bribes or to earn the person’s trust, or can be punishment if they don’t comply.
- **Inappropriate touch:** for example a staff member giving an individual a private massage, frontal hug, or encouraging the person to sit on their lap.
- **Unusual focus on or contact with an individual:** You could notice a staff member or caregiver increasing alone time with the person, or isolating the person from group activities. The staff member may start increasing supports for the person to include help with dressing or help in the bathroom when the person has not needed that kind of support before, or taking the person to private locations.
- **Sexualizing the relationship with the person:** for example, flirting, romantic conversations, sexual teasing or exposure to media with sexual content. A sex offender can start by “innocently” watching movies that include romantic scenes and gradually introduce movies with sex scenes and work up to pornography.
- **Discrediting an individual *by saying they are liars or make up stories*** so if the person discloses abuse others are less likely to believe them.
- **Increasing dependency** before beginning the abuse. For example, you could notice that a woman’s boyfriend is encouraging her to stop receiving care from trusted family members or staff members because he can take care of all of her needs like medication or reaching items for her. This makes her more isolated and vulnerable for assault.

Anyone can be a perpetrator: women, men, staff, volunteers, family, employers, clergy, teachers, transporters or peers.



Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

How can I support safety for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities?

The WEAVE Perspective combines the Culture of Gentleness and Trauma Informed Principles. The next page provides ways you can use the WEAVE perspective to create a safe and supportive environment.

The WEAVE Perspective





Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

How can I support safety for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (continued)?

You can use the WEAVE Perspective as a guide for creating a safe and supportive environment by:

- Watching for signs of abuse and grooming behavior.
- Encouraging questions, opinions, and learning about healthy relationships, sexuality and safety.
- Encouraging people with I/DD to make choices, including saying “no.”
- Talking about safety, rights, sexuality and respect as part of our support to individuals with I/DD.
- Trusting and supportive relationships form the foundation of recovery and safety.
- Many different actions, attitudes or environments may prompt a traumatic memory or trauma response for survivors of sexual assault. Tone of voice, scents, certain objects, settings, or touch are examples of situations that could bring back a traumatic memory and cause distress. Paying attention to our own behavior and honoring feelings creates safety.
- Trauma and distress appear in many ways: sexualized behavior, aggression, withdrawal, clinginess, avoidance or anger. Behavior communicates a valuable message. Approach individuals expressing these behaviors with empathy. You may not know the cause of the trauma or distress. The most important thing is to provide support.
- When we are predictable, kind, and reliable we are more likely to learn about abuse from the people we serve. Take the time to listen.
- Trauma “has no clock.” Recognize that abuse from years ago can shape behavior today.



Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

How do I respond to a disclosure of sexual assault?

Survivors may talk about being abused or they may show that they have been assaulted through changes in behavior. Survivors usually disclose to people that they know and trust. Your response to the survivor at this time is a very important part of their healing.

Below are some statements that are helpful in communicating support to a survivor of sexual assault:

"I believe you."

"It's not your fault."

"Thank you for telling me."

"You did nothing wrong."

"I am so sorry this happened to you."

"_____ should not have done this to you."

"I want to help and keep you safe."



- It is important to maintain your support throughout the investigation and referral process. Survivors should not feel abandoned once they report abuse.
- Ensure safety. Take the steps within your power to make sure the alleged sex offender does not have access to the survivor.
- Respect the privacy of the survivor. Only tell people in authority you need to tell to make a report. Involve the survivor in the reporting process and in making plans for safety.
- Help the survivor feel safe; everyone needs something different. Find out what they need to feel protected and believed.



Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Things to remember when you take action.

- Let the victim know that you believe him or her. You are the person this individual trusted to tell.
- Research shows that victims of sexual assault benefit greatly from strong advocacy and caring support during disclosure and investigation.
- First-time disclosures of sexual assault can happen days, months, and even years after the assault.
- Even if you are unsure about what the victim is telling you, do not try to investigate. Only professionally trained interviewers should conduct a sexual assault investigation.
- Silence about sexual abuse often exists. Challenging this silence is difficult, but it is an important part of keeping survivors safe.
- Even after the assault stops, it is very common for survivors to continue to feel unsafe, anxious or jumpy.
- Time and avoidance rarely “fix” the struggles associated with being a survivor of sexual assault.
- Trauma affects decision-making, behavioral choices, and quality of life long after the assault ends.
- Caregivers and family are an important part of the survivor’s safety and healing. You may need support too.





Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Secondary Trauma & Self-Care

Any time you hear that someone you are caring for has been sexually assaulted, feelings are going to come up. It is natural to feel sadness, anger, and panic about what may need to happen next. When a person discloses that they have been sexually assaulted, it is essential not to show these feelings, but to remain calm. Show the person that you believe them and that you will be a source of support. It is important to address your feelings when you are no longer in the presence of the individual. As parents, guardians, and caregivers of people with disabilities, we are not immune to violence. It is likely that many of you reading this guide either know victims of sexual violence or are a survivor yourself. Providing support to a person who has been sexually assaulted can cause secondary trauma for the person providing care. Secondary traumatic stress is the emotional duress that results when a person hears about the firsthand trauma experiences of another. Please take care of yourself as you support survivors in your life. Take time to debrief appropriately and take care of your mental health.

If you need support, you can call the 24/7 YWCA help line to speak with an advocate at (616) 454-9922 and utilize the resources in this guide.





Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

What is the Nurse Examiner Program?

The Nurse Examiner Program (NEP) provides medical forensic examinations and coordinates services for individuals who report sexual assault. Forensic nurses and trained sexual assault advocates respond 24 hours a day at the YWCA, or to hospitals when necessary. Medical forensic evidence can be collected up to **120 hours** (5 days) after the assault. This evidence may be an important part of an agency investigation or a police investigation of a sexual assault disclosure.

The following details about the Nurse Examiner Program will help you understand what may take place during a medical forensic exam at the YWCA. Reviewing the questions and answers on the next few pages prior to your arrival may be helpful in preparing for a visit to the NEP. Individuals who are served at the NEP are called patients. You can also view a virtual tour video for patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities [here](#).

How do I arrange an exam?

Anyone involved in the investigation, including parents and guardians, can schedule exams. Exams are usually scheduled within a few hours of the request. The exam is a medical procedure and does require guardian consent or court authorization. Guardian consent may be verbal or written. To see a flow chart of guardian response to sexual assault click [here](#). To schedule an exam or get more information call the **YWCA Help Line at 616-454-9922**.

How do we get ready for an exam?

Bring the patient's social security number and the clothes, including underwear, that were worn during the assault, in a clean paper bag. If the patient wears the clothes they were assaulted in to the exam, they may be kept for evidence. We have clothes the patient can wear and keep. When possible, the patient should not bathe, brush their teeth or wash their hands. If the patient needs to urinate before coming to the exam, you can take a urine sample in a clean container. A comfort item or support person can be brought along. Don't rehearse the disclosure, but help the patient understand what will be happening at the NEP.



Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Who will be there?

Along with the forensic nurse examiner, a trained sexual assault advocate will greet the patient upon arrival and be present throughout the process. Advocates offer emotional support to the patient and family members, give general information about YWCA services, discuss available community resources, and assist the nurse.

What about the police?

If the police are involved before the examination is scheduled, they may want to interview the patient at the NEP. YWCA staff only call the police if the patient requests it. Police do not need to be involved for an exam to take place.

Will there be paperwork?

Yes. We must obtain signatures from the patient and/or guardian on several consent forms, and a medical history and patient information will also be collected. If the guardian is not available to sign the consent form they can give verbal consent to the nurse over the phone. A guardian may consent to an examination, but the person receiving the exam has the right to refuse services at any time.

Will I have to answer questions?

The nurse may ask for information from the patient, staff, family or guardians if they are present. Learning about what happened during the assault helps the nurse in conducting the exam.

How much does the exam cost?

The exam and advocacy services are **free** of charge.

How long will the exam take?

It varies, the medical interview and exam usually take between 2-3 hours.

Can the patient talk to someone in private?

Yes. They can talk to the nurse or the advocate in private if they would like to. Private follow-up counseling is available at the YWCA.



Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Where will the exam take place?

The YWCA is located in downtown Grand Rapids at 25 Sheldon Blvd., SE. The YWCA has a private suite, specifically designed for forensic exams. There is a small parking lot directly behind the building, off of Weston.

What if the patient wants to stop?

No part of the exam is ever forced on a patient. The nurse will conduct the exam at a pace that is comfortable for the patient. The patient may refuse any part of the exam or stop the exam at any time.

Can the patient keep his or her clothes on for the exam?

The patient will be asked to remove all of their clothes, including underwear, and change into a hospital gown. The YWCA exam suite has a private bathroom for patients to change their clothes.

What will the nurse do?

The nurse is collecting evidence of assault and identifying injuries so that the patient gets proper care. She will describe each step of the process to make sure the patient agrees to it.

The nurse will conduct a head-to-toe examination, checking for bruises, and other injuries. She may use swabs on different areas of the patient's body to collect evidence.

The nurse may conduct a genital examination. For females this can involve a pelvic exam using a speculum. Depending on the description of the assault, an anal exam might be conducted.

Throughout the exam, the nurse will make notes and take pictures that may document injury and evidence.

What happens with the evidence?

Evidence can help to identify the offender. If the police are involved, they will pick up the evidence kit and take it to the Michigan State Crime Lab for analysis. If police are not involved, the NEP holds evidence kits for up to 18 months, in case the police get involved in the future.



Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

What about safety?

The advocate will discuss safety planning. It is important that the survivor returns to a place that is safe for them. For health safety, the nurse will offer medications that prevent sexually transmitted infections (Chlamydia and Gonorrhea). She will also discuss options to prevent possible pregnancy.

Will someone check in on us?

With permission, a follow-up phone call will be made 2-4 days following the exam and approximately 4-6 weeks later. The purpose of these calls are to check on the well-being of the survivor, to make any necessary referrals or to schedule counseling if it is desired.

What if we still need to talk to someone?

The advocate will discuss counseling services for the survivor and the important people in his or her life. Also, the YWCA can provide support and advocacy throughout the investigation, which includes support in court if the case goes to trial.

Who will learn about this?

Typically, the Police (if they are involved) and Adult Protective Services investigators request information about the exam. The NEP does not share patient information with friends, family or agency staff, unless we are given written permission to do so.





Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

How else can the YWCA help us?

The YWCA West Central Michigan offers a range of services that respond to the issues of sexual violence. We are committed to tailoring services to meet the individual needs of each survivor. We offer:

Telephone Crisis Advocacy: YWCA 24/7 Help Line (616) 454-9922

- Trained Advocates are available to help callers on issues related to sexual violence, anytime, day or night. You do not need to identify yourself.
- Help with immediate safety planning for survivors of sexual assault.
- General referral information for area medical, legal, and counseling services, including the Nurse Examiner Program.
- Help with immediate problem solving, consultation, education and planning next steps.
- Caring support for survivors, family and care-givers.

In-person Advocacy Sessions

- Individual crisis counseling sessions are provided for sexual assault survivors at the YWCA, at home, or any safe meeting place.
- Support with advocacy within the legal, employment, medical, educational and housing systems.
- Develop long-term safety plans with survivors, family and staff.
- We can provide some financial support for transportation and client assistance to increase safety and access to the legal process.
- Arrange for ongoing counseling, if desired.
- Provide support and advocacy during the medical forensic examination through the Nurse Examiner Program.



Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

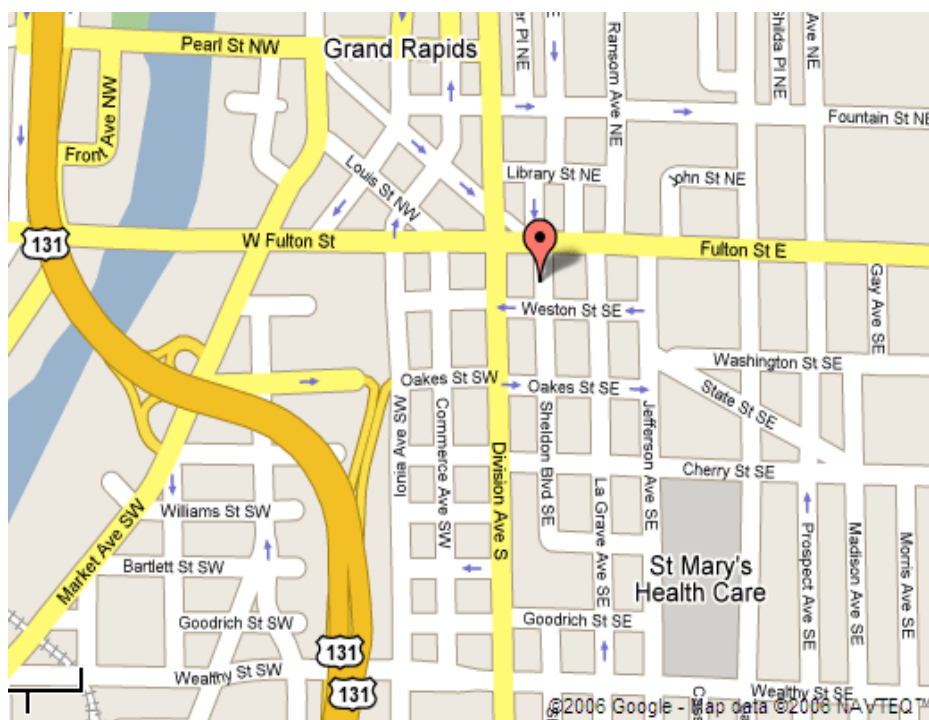
Individual Therapy

The YWCA offers individual and family counseling to help survivors, family members, guardians and staff heal from the assault.

Group Service

The YWCA can provide educational support groups for clients, and supportive consultation and training for staff, at your agency location or at the YWCA.

How do I get to the YWCA?



**YWCA West Central Michigan
25 Sheldon Blvd. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

Free parking for clients and visitors of the YWCA West Central Michigan is available in the lot directly behind our facility (on the corner of Weston and Division). Additional parking is available at city meters and in the Spectrum lot on the corner of Weston and Sheldon (entry off LaGrave).



Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Driving Directions to the YWCA:

From South: US-131N to Cherry Street, Left on Division, Right on Sheldon Blvd SE

From North: US-131S to Market Ave SW, Right on Fulton, Right on Sheldon Blvd SE

From East: I-196W to College Ave NE, Left on College, Right on Fulton, Left on Sheldon Blvd SE

From West: I-196E to Market Ave SW, Right on Fulton, Right on Sheldon Blvd SE

Bus Stops near the YWCA

There are several bus stops within a short walking distance of the YWCA (25 Sheldon) including bus lines 1, 4, 14, 15 and the Silver Line. The following stops are within .2 miles of the YWCA:

- Fulton & Sheldon
- Division & Fulton
- Fulton Street & Ransom
- Division & Monroe Center
- Fulton & Louis

Transportation Assistance

If you need help getting to the YWCA, let the helpline staff know when you call to set up an appointment. Cab vouchers and bus tickets can be made available to you to get to the YWCA.

What resources are there for the legal system?

Working with the legal system and the corresponding resources can feel overwhelming. You can start by contacting the YWCA to speak with an advocate for support within the legal system.



Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Kent County Prosecutor's Office

Phone: 616-632-6710

The Prosecutor's office protects the rights, safety, and security of Kent County residents through diligent efforts to prosecute criminal offenses in Kent County.

Legal Assistance Center

PHONE: 616-632-6000

If you are trying to solve basic legal problems in Kent County without an attorney, the Legal Assistance Center can help you help yourself. The Legal Assistance Center goal is to help you be informed, be prepared, and be heard.

Office for Victims of Crime

PHONE: 1-800-851-3420 **OR** 201-836-6998 TTY: 301-240-6310

OVC provides an online directory of Crime Victim Services, a resource designed to help service providers and individuals locate nonemergency crime victim service agencies in the United States and abroad.

Crime Victim Compensation

PHONE: 1-877-251-7373

Crime Victim Services can provide innocent victims and their families with up to \$25,000 in financial assistance for expenses accrued as a result of a violent crime. Through collaborative efforts with law enforcement, prosecutors, medical providers, funeral homes, advocates, and crime victim compensation, we can begin to help the victim put their life back together by assisting the victim with financial hardship.

Victim Rights Law Center

A nonprofit law center dedicated to serving the needs of rape and sexual assault victims. It offers free legal services to victims of rape and sexual assault



Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Michigan VINE

PHONE: 1-800-770-7657 TTY: 1-866-847-1298

VINE, which stands for Victim Information and Notification Everyday, is a victim notification network that provides the most reliable information for custody status changes and criminal case information. VINELink can be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The VINE service provides information by phone, email, TTY, and text message where available.

Adult Protective Services (APS)

PHONE: 1-855-444-3911

Adult Protective Services investigators protect vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect and exploitation by coordinating with mental health, public health, law enforcement, the probate courts, the aging network, community groups and the general public.

Child Protective Services (CPS)

PHONE: 1-855-444-3911

Children's Protective Services (CPS) program is responsible for investigating allegations of child abuse and neglect. The Michigan Child Protection Law provides the framework for what CPS must do



Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Acronyms

AFC	Adult Foster Care	LGBTQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning
APS	Adult Protective Services	MDHHS	Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
BSP	Behavior Supports Plan/Behavior Treatment Plan	MOKA	Muskegon Ottawa Kent Allegan
BTPRC	Behavior Treatment Plan Review Committee	N180	Network 180
CMCH	Community Mental Health Center	NEP	Nurse Examiner Program
CMHSP	Community Mental Health Service Provider	PHI	Protected Health Information
COG	Culture of Gentleness	PR	Pine Rest
CPS	Child Protective Services	RR	Recipient Rights
DCS	Developmental and Community Services	SA	Sexual Assault
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services	SANE	Sexual Assault Nurse Examination
DPOA	Durable Power of Attorney	SC	Supports Coordinator
DV	Domestic Violence	SIB	Self Injurious Behaviors
GAL	Guardian Ad Litem	SCS	Spectrum Community Services
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act	TIC	Trauma Informed Care
HNW	Hope Network	THR	Thresholds
HS/HM	Home Supervisor/Home Manager	YWCA	Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Service Provider
I/DD	Intellectual and/or Developmental Disability	WEAVE	Working to End Assault and Violence for Everyone
IR	Incident Report		



Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Vocabulary

Ableism: Treating someone with a disability as having lower value than individuals without a disability.

Abuse: Intentional physical, emotional, mental, spiritual, medical or financial harm by another person.

Accessibility: Safe and easy to approach.

Assault: An intentional physical, verbal, or psychological action to hurt another individual.

Autonomy: A person's ability to make choices for self.

Confidentiality: Information will be kept private unless there is threat of harm to self or others.

Culture: The values, traditions, customs, history and other experiences that a group of people share.

Culture of Gentleness: A philosophy based on gentle teaching that focuses on unconditionally valuing people and promoting interdependence

Disability: A label for a real or perceived limited skill in a particular area, either physical or intellectual.

Disclosure: Sharing personal information that one would consider a secret.

Durable Power of Attorney is a person who is legally appointed to handle specific areas like health, legal issues and finances. The main difference between a guardian and durable power of attorney is in guardianship the individual does not have the control as to who is appointed and when the appointment takes place. The court holds that power and the ability to remove guardian. An individual can revoke the durable power of attorney any time.



Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Guardian Ad Litem (GAL): a GAL is specifically appointed by the court to represent an individual for legal proceedings. A GAL can explain to an individual the process of the legal proceedings and make recommendations at the hearing based on the individual's best interests.

Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD): Physical or mental conditions starting before age 22 that cause a person to have functional limitations in parts of their lives.

Mandated Reporter: Someone required by law to report when abuse, neglect or violence has occurred.

Respect: Treating people as they want to be treated by honoring their values and choices.

Safety: Freedom from the occurrence of risk of injury, danger, or loss.

Sexual Assault: A variety of sexual actions that occur when someone does not or cannot give their consent.

Survivor: A person who has been affected by sexual violence and has gone through the recovery process

Trauma: A deeply distressing or disturbing experience leading to physical injury, emotional or mental stress.

Trauma-Informed: An atmosphere that involves understanding, recognizing, and responding to the effects of all types of trauma.

Victim: A person who has recently been affected by sexual violence

Vulnerable Adult: A person 18 years or older who is unable to protect themselves.



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Citations

¹ "Abused and Betrayed." *All Things Considered*, NPR, 8 Jan. 2018.
Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Special
Tabulation Credit: Katie Park/NPR

² Valenti-Heim, D., Schwartz, L. 1995. The Sexual Interview for Those with
Developmental Disabilities.

³ Petersilia, J. (2001). "Crime Victims with Developmental Disabilities: A
Review Essay." *Criminal Justice and Behavior*. (28): 655-694.

⁴ Johnson, II, Sigler R. 2000. "Forced Sexual Intercourse Among
Intimates," *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. 15 (1).