



Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region

151 Frederick Street, Suite 201
Kitchener, ON N2H 2M2
Business: 519.571.0121
Fax: 519.571.0522
Website: www.sascwr.org

24 Hour Crisis & Support Line

519.741.8633

Court Support Information & Eligibility

What we can offer you:

The Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region (SASC) recognizes that for survivors going through the justice system to prosecute an alleged offender on a sexual violence related charge, of a recent or historical crime can be a very difficult and emotionally wearing process.

SASC would like to offer women in our community a support network throughout their legal proceedings. With use of trained female volunteers, SASC is able to provide a female with a support system of three women for the duration of the court proceedings.

This service is both free and confidential.

Am I Eligible?

SASC is able to provide court support to females:

- Who are 16 and older
- Who are a survivor of sexual violence, either recent or historical
- Who are pressing charges *or* where charges have been laid against an individual *or* are called as witness against a former abuser
- Whose court proceedings are occurring within Waterloo Region*

** SASC may be able to provide phone support to the survivor, however can not guarantee attendance at the court dates outside Waterloo Region.*

Limitations to Eligibility

We are not able to provide direct court support to**:

- Male survivors going through legal proceedings
- To friends and family members supporting a survivor
- To a friend or family member who is a also survivor, supporting a female going through court proceedings
- To anyone on issues of perpetration
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** Other SASC services may be available to these individuals. See www.SASC.org for more details or call 519.571.0121

What is the role of the volunteers?



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The role of the SASC volunteer is:

- To provide non-judgmental, immediate and basic needs support during court proceedings to the client
- To provide consistent support throughout the court process
- For one of the three volunteer to attend court dates as possible and provide phone
- Support to female in lieu of missed attendance (within 48 hours of trial date)
- To not interfere with court proceedings or provide legal counsel
- To act a network of support for the survivor
- The volunteer is in attendance to support the female seeking our services. Although family and friends may be present, our main focus is support for the client. Appropriate referral will be available to family and friends.

Note: Volunteers are unable to advocate for clients during the court proceedings.

What are the steps?

1. Females seeking court support are requested to contact the SASC office directly and ask to speak with Volunteer Coordinator (VC)
2. The female and VC will set up a meeting to discuss options, eligibility and next steps. If the female is eligible a client intake process will be completed
3. The VC will arrange for three SASC volunteers to commit to providing court support
4. The VC, female and three female volunteers will set up a time to meet all together to familiarize with each other and share information about court dates
5. The female will then use this network of volunteers as support for court related needs and scheduling.
6. Advanced notice of court dates (ideally 2 weeks) are required in order to better
7. arrange volunteer attendance and support with client.

***Note:** SASC will require minimum two weeks notice about court dates for volunteer court support, so please contact SASC as soon as possible if you decided you would like to access our Court Support services.

Things to keep in mind

1. All information will be kept confidential.
2. Clients will decide how much information they choose to share with volunteers. Appropriate referrals will be made for one to one counseling as needed.
3. Volunteers and client will respect personal boundaries and not establish personal relationships outside the court support program
4. The client will access support from this volunteer network on issues as they relate to the court proceedings. The client will use other supports, including the
5. SASC crisis and support line as an additional support as needed.



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6. If any concerns arise from either the client or volunteers they will be communicated with the VC and followed-up accordingly.

Important Contact information

Volunteer Coordinator: _____

519-571-0121 ext. 24

SASC Volunteers (first name only to be kept *confidential*)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Volunteer Pager contact number: _____

This is to be used for to inform the volunteer on court scheduling.
Phone support is available through our 24 hour Crisis and Support
Line at **741-8633** between court dates.