

USER'S GUIDE

Introduction

The West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information Services' (WVFRIS) **Sexual Assault Service Training Academy (SASTA) courses** offer agencies and individual students the flexibility to customize their education on sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, and related issues to their specific needs and circumstances. **Individual students and/or agency representatives can select courses and/or modules within courses to complete, depending on their interests.** They can determine the pace which they will work through the material.

- **The vast majority of the SASTA courses are written for individual students,** whether they are assigned the course by their agency or are working independently. An agency may choose to supplement its face-to-face training programs with these online courses, having its students work alone or together to complete the courses. In some modules. In instances that an agency wishes its students to interact to promote knowledge and skill acquisition, a moderator from their agency could be assigned to monitor and guide the dialogue towards the learning goals.
- **There are a few courses (as indicated in the course introduction) that are intended more for agency use than for individual students.** Two examples are *Tools to Increase Access to Services for Victims with Disabilities* and *Collaboration: Getting Started*.

Most courses are comprised of several topical modules. However, some cover one distinct topical area—in those cases, the courses are essentially just one module.

Module Structure

Most modules include one or more lessons that present **Core Knowledge** on the topic at hand. Modules end with **Quiz Questions** to assess what information the student acquired.

Some modules include **Activities** to allow students to practice or reinforce what they learned in a lesson. The types of activities can vary from one module to the next, but often include: **Consider This, Consider This/These Scenario(s)** and/or **What Do You Think?** (reflection questions).

Many modules include **Supplemental Resources or Tools** that can be downloaded and printed out, as well as links to other web sites for additional information. Modules may include **Notes, Video Clips** and **Key Points** summarizing lessons in the module.

(Note that if you are having difficulty accessing a document referenced in these courses through the links provided, another option is to locate the document by doing a web search for titles.)

Many modules and courses are intertwined insofar as one module or course may suggest reviewing another to better understand a concept, law, procedure, issue, etc. Modules and courses have been cross-referenced as appropriate.

Explanation of Terms

Explanations of terms can be found throughout these courses. Two initial explanations are:

- The terms "sexual violence" and "sexual assault" are generally used in these courses to encompass sexual assault, sexual abuse and other forms of sexual violence, unless otherwise specified. One exception is when terms refer to legal definitions.
- Rape crisis centers often use the terms "victims" and "clients" to refer to persons who seek their assistance. Other service agencies often refer to those they serve as "clients" and "consumers." All of these terms are used in these courses.

Referencing and Reproduction of Materials

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