

WINDSOR COUNTY SPECIAL INVESTIGATION UNIT (SIU)

INFORMATIONAL GUIDE FOR ADULTS

Offering a safe place for adults to meet with
a team of professionals specially trained to
investigate and support victims of sexual
abuse/assault.

SIU@the-family-place.org



Who We Are

Our team of professionals works together to investigate reports of sexual abuse/assault committed against adult victims/survivors.

We offer interview services, supports and referrals at our two Advocacy Centers — one in White River Junction and one in North Springfield, VT.

OUR TEAM CONSISTS OF:

Forensic Interview Specialists who are specially trained, neutral interviewers who will talk to you about what happened, at your pace, and with your permission. We do our best to make you feel safe and heard in a comfortable interview space. The interviews are audio- and video-recorded, with your permission, and are utilized as one step in the investigation.

Law enforcement detectives will be present for your interview, but will observe the interview from another room. Again, you guide the process, and can meet with the detective if you wish... but you don't have to. Our SIU detectives also receive specialized training in understanding trauma and how to appropriately investigate these types of reports. It is possible for you to meet with and talk with the detective if you agree, and the detective may ask you to swear to the truth of the interview. Again, you will be the one making the decision about these steps.

Victim advocates from the SIU or our community network advocates may be present as well. You may have the opportunity to speak to the advocate in a private location and you may seek their support and presence at any stage of the process. More specific information about local Victim Advocacy services are listed on the back of this brochure. If the investigation results in the case being referred for possible prosecution — again, with your input — you will be connected to the Windsor County State's Attorney's Office Victim Advocate(s) to help guide and support you through the criminal proceedings. We are here to answer any questions you may have about any of these people or processes.

For more information, visit

<https://www.familyplacevt.org/child-advocacy-center/>

What to Expect or Questions You May Have

When you come to our center, you will typically be greeted by either the Forensic Interviewer, or an advocate. You will have the opportunity to ask questions about what will happen that day and also what might happen as the investigation moves forward.

There are forms that you will be asked to sign — to give us permission to record the interview and to share it with the appropriate team members (typically just law enforcement and possibly the prosecutor's office). As always, we will do our best to answer any questions or concerns you may have. If we aren't able to answer your questions, we will try to direct you to the appropriate person or place that can.

Once you are ready, you and the interviewer will go in to our interview room. This is a comfortable, private setting. You may notice the camera(s) up on the wall, but generally people forget they are there once you start talking.

You will guide the pace of the interview. You can ask questions, take a break, or stop the conversation at any time. At the conclusion of your interview, you may meet with the assigned SIU detective and you may be asked to swear to the truth of what you said. As always, it is up to you to make these decisions and we are available to discuss any issues or concerns you may have.

After you have finished your interview, the investigation will shift to being primarily in the hands of the SIU detective. You will be given contact information and should be able to communicate with the detective as the investigation moves forward. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns along the way.

Other possible questions or concerns you may have might include the need for counseling, therapy, and/or medical attention for you. We will do our best to help answer your questions and to direct you to the best medical facility and/or connect you with a therapist if you choose.

CONFIDENTIAL VICTIM ADVOCACY & CRISIS INTERVENTION

SERVICES NEAR HARTFORD, VT

WISE

FOR LIVE CHAT AND OTHER
INFORMATION, VISIT:
[HTTPS://WISEUV.ORG/](https://wiseuv.org/)
CRISIS LINE: 866-348-9473
TEXT: 603-836-9472



SERVICES NEAR N. SPRINGFIELD, VT

WOMEN'S FREEDOM CENTER

FOR LIVE CHAT AND OTHER
INFORMATION, VISIT:
[HTTPS://WOMENSFREEDOMCENTER.NET](https://womensfreedomcenter.net)
CONFIDENTIAL 24-HOUR HOTLINE:
802-885-2050