

Response Support Services of the YWCA of South Hampton Roads

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SERVICES

Welcome to Response Support Services, a program of the YWCA of South Hampton Roads. The core mission of Response is to provide services to victims and survivors of sexual assault. If you have recently been assaulted, or if the assault occurred in the past, you have a number of options, which will be discussed during your initial intake session. Whatever you decide to do, Response is here to help. We recognize that sexual assault affects everyone in the community, and we have a variety of confidential services for women, men, and children – many of which are free and available in Spanish.

Crisis intervention counseling – Many victims and survivors of sexual assault find short-term, crisis intervention counseling to be very helpful. Response offers 1-10 free sessions of crisis intervention counseling to provide support and referrals for ongoing service needs. Response also provides further long term individual and group therapy, or referrals to outside therapists, if long term therapy is needed.

Long term therapy services – The Response clinician team is staffed by therapists who have a variety of experience and specialties. These therapists work together to provide comprehensive services for sexual assault, domestic violence, as well as women's issues.

Group Therapy – Response periodically offers support groups for those affected by sexual violence. These groups are facilitated or co-facilitated by a Response staff member. Groups normally run eight weeks, depending on the need of the group. The first two weeks of the group will be open to new members and then it will close. Response also runs support groups for teens within the community. These groups are facilitated or co-facilitated by a Response staff member.

Hotline – The Response hotline offers free, confidential, 24-hour support to sexual assault survivors, their friends and families, professionals, and the general public. When someone calls the Response hotline, a trained volunteer or staff member always responds. To contact the hotline, please call **(757) 622-4300**.

Hospital Accompaniment – Technology has made forensic evidence collection an integral part of criminal prosecution. A Response crisis counselor is available to respond to sexual assault victims and their family members/friend at the hospital to provide support, information and advocacy.

Court/Legal Accompaniment – Response provides free and confidential services including: accompaniment to attorney's offices, law enforcement interviews, and court appointments; information and referrals, preparation for the court room experience; and preparation for potential outcomes of criminal proceedings. However, these services do not substitute nor provide any type of legal advice. Anyone needing detailed information about the criminal justice process or advice from an attorney is offered referrals, in addition to Response's other services.

Outreach and Training Programs – Response offers numerous outreach and training programs to address topics such as healthy relationships, interpersonal violence, sexual harassment, personal safety, and sexual violence. Speakers are also available for in-services and community groups. Most outreach and training programs are offered free of charge.