

§53-A. Privileged communications to sexual assault counselors

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Rape crisis center" means any publicly or privately funded agency, institution or facility existing in this State, having as its purpose to reduce the trauma of sexual assault to sexual assault victims and their families through crisis intervention, counseling, medical and legal information and dissemination of educational information pertaining to sexual assault. [RR 2013, c. 2, §29 (COR).]

B. "Sexual assault counselor" means a person who :

(1) Has undergone a program of training from a rape crisis center that includes, but is not limited to: law, medicine, societal attitudes, crisis intervention, counseling techniques and referral services; and

(2) Is either a staff member, paid or unpaid, or under the supervision of a staff member of a rape crisis center. [RR 2013, c. 2, §29 (COR).]

C. "Confidential criminal history record information" has the same meaning as in section 703, subsection 2. [PL 2013, c. 588, Pt. E, §8 (NEW).]

D. "Criminal justice agency" has the same meaning as in section 703, subsection 4. [PL 2013, c. 588, Pt. E, §8 (NEW).]

[RR 2013, c. 2, §29 (COR).]

2. Privileged communications. Except with regard to reporting, cooperating in an investigation or giving evidence pursuant to Title 22, chapter 958-A or 1071, or except at the request, or with the consent of, the victim of sexual assault, a sexual assault counselor may not be required to testify in any civil or criminal action, suit or proceeding at law or in equity about any information that the sexual assault counselor may have acquired in providing sexual assault counseling services. A sexual assault counselor or a rape crisis center may not be required to disclose to the court any records, notes, memoranda or documents containing confidential communications. When a court in the exercise of sound discretion determines the disclosure necessary to the proper administration of justice, information communicated to, or otherwise learned by, that sexual assault counselor in connection with the provision of sexual assault counseling services is not privileged and disclosure may be required. [PL 2007, c. 577, §1 (AMD).]

3. Confidential criminal history record information. A Maine criminal justice agency, whether directly or through any intermediary, may disseminate confidential criminal history record information to a sexual assault counselor for the purpose of planning for the safety of a victim of sexual assault. A sexual assault counselor who receives confidential criminal history record information pursuant to this subsection shall use it solely for the purpose authorized by this subsection and may not further disseminate the information.

[PL 2013, c. 588, Pt. E, §9 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 319 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 577, §1 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 588, Pt. E, §§8, 9 (AMD). RR 2013, c. 2, §29 (COR).

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