

Memorandum of Understanding

Alternatives, Inc.'s mission is to promote public safety and challenge offenders to become responsible, productive citizens through firm, fair, consistent supervision, treatment and education.

As part of this mission, Alternatives, Inc. provides housing, food service, treatment, and security for approximately 240 female clients (Passages 1001 South 27th St.) and 210 male clients (Alpha House 3109 1st Ave. North).

The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 requires Alternatives, Inc. to be in compliance with Federal standards. Standard §115.221(d) (Evidence protocol and forensic medical examinations) requires Alternatives, Inc., to provide access to a victim advocate from a rape crisis center; Standard §115.221(e) as requested by the victim, the victim advocate shall accompany and support the victim through the forensic medical examination process and investigatory interviews and shall provide emotional support, crisis intervention, information, and referrals. Standard §115.253 (resident access to outside confidential support services) requires Alternatives, Inc. to provide residents with access to outside victim advocates for emotional support services related to sexual abuse.

In the event a resident(s) is sexually abused, Alternatives, Inc. seeks to make available access to outside victim advocates for forensic medical examinations, investigatory interviews, and emotional support services related to sexual abuse.

1. Scope of Assistance:

a. YWCA Billings Gateway Program:

- i. Provide emotional support related to sexual abuse for both Alpha House and Passages residents via the 24-hour help line.
- ii. Provide victim advocates for forensic medical examinations, investigatory interviews, crisis intervention, emotional support, and referrals.
- iii. Victim advocates are not required to report back to Alternatives, Inc. unless the resident gives permission to do so.
- iv. If the resident gives permission to contact Alternatives, Inc. call Rick Alan Deady, PREA Coordinator at 406-256-3501 ext. 245 (if after normal work hours, please leave a detailed message).

b. Alternatives, Inc.:

- i. Residents are provided the telephone number to the Gateway's 24-hour help line (245-4472) to receive emotional support, accompanying victim for forensic medical examination, or investigatory interviews from a victim advocate. It is posted in resident hallways, common areas and in the residential handbook
- ii. Residents are informed their communication with YWCA gateway will not be monitored and remain confidential.
- iii. If a Case Manager is working with a client, and the client discloses a sexual abuse or is asking for additional counseling or support services due to a past sexual abuse or assault, the Case Manager will offer the resident the opportunity to contact the YWCA Gateway program and may facilitate this by contacting the program on the resident's behalf or allowing the resident to make the call in their office.

