



Family Crisis Center
Breaking the Cycle of Violence

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November 20th, 2025

Willacy County Commissioners Court
576 W. Main Ave Room #145
Raymondville, TX 78580

Dear Honorable Aurelio Guerra and Members of the Willacy County Commissioners Court,

On behalf of the Family Crisis Center, it is my privilege to submit the 2025 Willacy County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Biennial Report for your review and consideration. This report reflects the dedicated efforts of the key partnering agencies in responding to sexual assault within our community over the past reporting period.

In accordance with statutory requirements, the Commissioners Court is responsible for submitting the completed report to the Office of the Texas Governor's Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force (SASTF) on or before February 1, 2026. Reports may be submitted directly via email to SASTF@gov.texas.gov with the subject line "SART Biennial Report."

We sincerely appreciate the Court's ongoing support and leadership in ensuring a coordinated, timely, and victim-centered response to sexual assault in Willacy County. Should additional information or clarification be required, the Family Crisis Center stands ready to provide assistance.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the safety and well-being of all residents of Willacy County.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Hoshino

Satellite Office in Willacy County
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Willacy County Adult Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

Biennial Report

Reporting Period:

September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2025

Submitted to:

Willacy County Commissioners Court
and
The Office of the Governor

Prepared and Submitted by:

Willacy County Adult Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

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Date of Submission:

November 20, 2025

"To enhance victim services to survivors of sexual assault in Willacy County by reinforcing and strengthening relationships, communication and service delivery between health care providers, victim service providers, law enforcement and the justice system."

Willacy County Adult Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

Biennial Report

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Willacy County Adult Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

Executive Summary

The Willacy County Adult Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), initially established in December 2021 and active through 2022, experienced a period of inactivity in the following years due to shifting local capacities and resource limitations common in small rural communities. However, in November 2025, the team was successfully reestablished with a renewed commitment to strengthening Willacy County's coordinated response to adult sexual assault.

Despite the county's rural size and limited resources, all key partner agencies, Willacy County District Attorney's Office, Raymondville Police Department, Lyford Police Department, Port Mansfield Police Department, Willacy County Sheriff's Department, Valley Baptist Medical Center / SANE Nurses, Texas Tropical Behavioral Health, and Family Crisis Center, have reconvened with shared dedication. Each partner continues to uphold the core mission and goals that guided the original formation of the SART: to ensure a compassionate, trauma-informed, victim-centered, and collaborative response for adult survivors of sexual assault.

As the Willacy County Adult SART moves forward, the team remains focused on rebuilding structure, reinforcing interagency collaboration, and implementing consistent protocols that align with statewide expectations. This reestablishment marks a meaningful and promising step toward strengthening local response efforts and ensuring that survivors receive the support, dignity, and coordinated care they deserve.

Willacy County Adult Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

SART Overview

The Willacy County Adult Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) serves as a coordinated, multidisciplinary partnership designed to enhance the community's response to adult sexual assault. As a rural county with limited local resources but a strong commitment to public safety, Willacy County recognizes the critical need for collaboration among agencies responsible for addressing sexual assault cases.

The Adult SART brings together key stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies, healthcare providers, forensic examiners, victim advocacy organizations, prosecutors, and community-based partners. To ensure a unified, trauma-informed, and victim-centered approach. By strengthening communication and improving cross-agency coordination, the SART works to enhance service delivery, reduce systemic barriers, and promote accountability throughout the response process.

The team's primary objectives include:

- Improving the consistency and quality of care provided to adult survivors of sexual assault.
- Ensuring timely and coordinated responses among all partner agencies.
- Supporting trauma-informed practices that prioritize survivor well-being, safety, and autonomy.
- Enhancing evidence collection and case handling through collaborative protocols and shared expertise.
- Promoting ongoing training, capacity building, and professional development tailored to the needs of a rural service region.

Although Willacy County is a small, close-knit community, the SART is committed to upholding statewide standards and best practices. The team's structure reflects a unified effort to deliver comprehensive, respectful, and effective services to survivors while fostering strong interagency relationships that support both immediate response and long-term systemic improvement.

Willacy County Adult Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

Outline of Activities and Trainings

During this reporting period, members of the Willacy County law enforcement agencies and the Willacy County District Attorney's Office actively participated in the Family Crisis Center's Sexual Assault Conference. This conference featured expert speakers who provided specialized training on sexual assault for law enforcement professionals, counselors, advocates, and community members. In addition, representatives from Willacy County law enforcement and the District Attorney's Office attended the 2025 TAASA Law Enforcement Sexual Assault Training (LESAT) held on South Padre Island, strengthening their knowledge and skills related to adult sexual assault response and investigation.

The Willacy County Adult Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) was reestablished in November 2025 following a period of inactivity. As a small rural county, the initial focus has centered on rebuilding the structure of the SART, confirming mandated membership, and restoring consistent communication across partner agencies. Throughout this reestablishment process, team members have remained committed to enhancing collaboration and strengthening coordinated response efforts.

In preparation for the next reporting period, the team is actively working on the following initiatives:

- Identifying additional training opportunities that meet state requirements and address the unique needs of a rural service area.
- Coordinating with regional and statewide partners to access training on trauma-informed care, sexual assault investigations, forensic best practices, advocacy processes, and multidisciplinary collaboration.
- Developing an internal training plan and schedule to continue supporting ongoing professional development for all mandated members.
- Establishing a plan for upcoming activities and initiatives, including community outreach, protocol development, and strengthening interagency coordination.

The Willacy County Adult SART is committed to fulfilling all state standards and expanding its participation in activities, projects, and trainings in the coming year to further strengthen the community's coordinated response to adult sexual assault.

Willacy County Adult Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

Data and Findings

Willacy County District Attorney's Office

Reporting Period: September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2025

The following data represents adult sexual assault-related reports, indictments, dispositions, and associated case outcomes documented by the Willacy County District Attorney's Office and local law enforcement agencies during the reporting period. As a small rural jurisdiction, Willacy County experiences relatively low case volumes; however, each case underscores the continued need for a coordinated and trauma-informed response.

1. Reports Received by the Willacy County District Attorney's Office

- Adult Sexual Assault: 5
- Adult Aggravated Sexual Assault: 2
- Adult Attempted Sexual Assault: 1
- Adult Attempted Aggravated Sexual Assault: 0

Total Reports Received: 8

2. Indictments Presented Based on Reports Received

- Indictments Presented: 5
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3. Dispositions of Indicted Cases

Dismissals – 2 Cases

Summary of Reasons for Dismissal:

- Victim was uncooperative and requested dismissal; unwillingness to testify impacted the viability of prosecution.
- Victim's post-arrest communication with the defendant weakened the State's case.

Convictions – 1 Case

- One defendant entered a guilty plea to a reduced charge.

Open Case – 2 Case

Summary:

- Cases remain open and are pending disposition.
-

4. Reports Received Where No Indictment Was Presented

- No Indictment Presented: 3

Summary of Reasons Cases Were Not Presented for Indictment:

- One case was indicted as Aggravated Robbery instead of a sexual assault offense; a conviction was secured.
 - In another case, prosecutorial discretion was exercised due in part to the victim's unwillingness to testify.
 - One case involved a suspect claiming an affirmative defense under Texas Penal Code § 42.012, and evidence was insufficient to proceed.
 - In another case, lack of evidence impacted prosecutorial decisions; contributing factors included the victim not being taken to CAART for examination.
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5. Reports Submitted by Willacy County Law Enforcement Agencies

- Raymondville Police Department: 5
- Willacy County Sheriff's Office: 1
- Lyford Police Department: 0
- Port Mansfield Police Department: 1

Raymondville Police Department

Reporting Period: September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2025

The Raymondville Police Department (RPD), serving as the primary law enforcement agency within Willacy County's largest municipality, provided the following data regarding adult sexual assault reports, investigations, and rape-kit handling during the biennial reporting period. As a small rural agency, RPD continues to demonstrate adherence to statutory requirements and a commitment to timely, trauma-informed response practices.

1. Adult Sexual Assault Reports Received

- 2023: 1
- 2024: 4
- 2025: 2

Total Reports Received: 7

2. Adult Sexual Assault Investigations Conducted

- 2023: 1
- 2024: 4
- 2025: 2

Total Investigations Conducted: 7

RPD investigated every adult sexual assault report received during the reporting period, reflecting the department's consistent response protocols and case-handling practices.

3. Rape Kits Not Picked Up Within the Statutory Timeline

- 2023: 0
- 2024: 0
- 2025: 0

Total Kits Outside Statutory Timeline: 0

Valley Baptist Medical Center / SANE Program

Reporting Period: September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2025

Valley Baptist Medical Center, through its Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program, serves as the primary medical resource for adult sexual assault forensic examinations for Willacy County. The following data outlines the number of exams and forensic evidence kits completed during the reporting period. As a rural region with limited medical facilities, the availability and responsiveness of SANE services remain vital to ensuring survivors receive timely, trauma-informed care.

1. Forensic Exams and Evidence Kits Completed (September 1, 2023 – September 1, 2024)

- Total Exams Conducted: 3
- Total Kits Completed: 3

All exams resulted in completed forensic evidence kits, indicating full alignment with established SANE protocols.

2. Forensic Exams and Evidence Kits Completed (September 1, 2024 – September 1, 2025)

- Total Exams Conducted: 3
- Total Kits Completed: 3

The consistency of exam and kit completion reflects continued accessibility of SANE services for Willacy County survivors.

Willacy County Sheriff's Office

Reporting Period: September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2025

This section provides a clear and succinct overview of sexual assault reporting and investigative activity conducted by the Willacy County Sheriff's Office. The data presented below reflects the agency's ongoing commitment to statutory compliance, timely evidence handling, and a victim-centered response to all reported incidents.

Fiscal Year 2023

- Sexual Assault Reports Received: 0
 - Sexual Assault Investigations Conducted: 0
 - Rape Kits Not Picked Up Within Statutory Timeline: 0
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Fiscal Year 2024

- Sexual Assault Reports Received: 2
 - Sexual Assault Investigations Conducted: 2
 - Rape Kits Not Picked Up Within Statutory Timeline: 0
-

Fiscal Year 2025

- Sexual Assault Reports Received: 1
- Sexual Assault Investigations Conducted: 1
- Rape Kits Not Picked Up Within Statutory Timeline: 0

Family Crisis Center / Advocacy Services

Reporting Period: September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2025

The Family Crisis Center provides essential advocacy and support services for adult survivors of sexual assault within Willacy County. Services include a 24/7 crisis hotline, accompaniment to law enforcement and medical appointments, coordination with the law enforcement, District Attorney's Office, counseling, and emergency shelter. The following data reflects the agency's engagement with survivors during the reporting period.

1. Hotline and Direct Survivor Services

- 24/7 Hotline Calls Received: 11
 - Survivors Served: 1
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2. Accompaniment Services

- Law Enforcement Accompaniments: 1
 - Hospital/SANE Accompaniments: 1
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3. Coordination with the District Attorney's Office

- Cases Submitted to the District Attorney's Office: 0
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4. Additional Services Provided

- Counseling Services: 0
- Emergency Shelter Provided: 1

Willacy County Adult Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

SART Protocol

When the Willacy County Adult SART was originally formed, the team discussed the need for formalized protocols; however, we did not have the opportunity to complete the creation. With the recent reestablishment of the team in November 2025, rebuilding the team's structure and reestablishing participation from all key partner agencies became the primary focus.

Although formal protocols were not finalized during this reporting period, the development of SART protocols has been identified as a top priority for the upcoming year. Moving forward, the team plans to:

- Develop clear, written SART protocols that align with state and national best practices.
- Define roles and responsibilities for each partner agency to ensure a coordinated and survivor-centered response.
- Establish procedures for evidence collection, case review, and interagency communication to enhance investigative and prosecutorial outcomes.
- Incorporate trauma-informed practices and survivor-centered approaches into all team activities.
- Ensure periodic review and updates of protocols to maintain alignment with evolving legal, medical, and advocacy standards.

The formalization of SART protocols will provide a structured foundation for all multidisciplinary efforts and strengthen the team's ability to respond effectively to adult sexual assault cases in Willacy County.

Willacy County Adult Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

Case Review: Evaluation of Protocols

Although no cases were reviewed during this cycle, the team recognizes the importance of structured case review as a critical component of evaluating protocols, ensuring compliance with best practices, and promoting a trauma-informed, survivor-centered response. Moving forward, the Willacy County Adult SART plans to:

- Implement formal case review procedures once protocols are fully established.
- Ensure that all future case reviews are conducted with survivor consent and in a trauma-informed manner.
- Use case reviews to evaluate the effectiveness of SART protocols and identify areas for improvement in interagency collaboration.
- Support continuous improvement in response, investigation, and advocacy efforts through reflective review and lessons learned.

The Willacy County Adult SART is committed to integrating case review as a central practice in its ongoing efforts to strengthen local response systems, enhance accountability, and ensure high-quality services for adult survivors of sexual assault.

Willacy County Adult Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

Conclusion

The Willacy County Adult Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) continues to demonstrate its commitment to providing a coordinated, trauma-informed, and survivor-centered response to adult sexual assault in our community. Although the team experienced a period of inactivity following its initial formation, the reestablishment in November 2025 has allowed key partner agencies to reconvene and reaffirm their dedication to this critical initiative.

During this reporting period, the team focused on rebuilding its structure, reestablishing interagency collaboration, and identifying priorities for the coming year. While formal protocols have not yet been implemented and no case reviews were conducted, these areas have been identified as top priorities moving forward. Additionally, the team is committed to fulfilling state-required training hours, developing standardized response protocols, and engaging in activities that strengthen the multidisciplinary framework of the SART.

As Willacy County moves into the next reporting cycle, the Adult SART will continue to build capacity, enhance collaboration among law enforcement, medical, prosecutorial, behavioral health, and advocacy partners, and ensure that survivors receive compassionate and effective services. The reestablishment of the team represents an important step toward sustaining a comprehensive and effective local response to adult sexual assault, reflecting the ongoing commitment of all partner agencies to the safety, dignity, and well-being of survivors in Willacy County.