

# Crisis Connection

## Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART)

### VI. Sexual assault bills

#### **Indiana HEA1654 Sex crime victims and polygraph examinations.**

(Dembowski, Steele)

Prohibits a law enforcement officer from requiring an alleged victim of a sex crime to submit to a polygraph or other truth telling device. Provides that a law enforcement officer may not refuse to investigate, charge, or prosecute a sex crime solely because the alleged victim of the sex crime has not submitted to a polygraph or other truth telling device. Removes restrictions for when the victim services division of the criminal justice institute (institute) may reimburse a medical services provider for the costs in providing forensic services. Creates the secured storage fund to assist counties with paying for the secured storage of a sample (sample) from forensic medical examinations of a sex crime victim (victim). Requires a hospital to give notice to a victim of certain rights and to contact law enforcement. Requires law enforcement to transport the sample to secured storage. Requires the sample to remain in secured storage for specified periods of time. Requires the institute to provide notice to victims regarding the sample. **Requires a prosecuting attorney to appoint a sexual assault response team (SART) if a SART is not established in a county, or to join with one or more other counties to create a regional SART. Requires a SART to develop a plan regarding evidence of sexual assaults. Provides that the failure to comply with certain statutory provisions, county plans, or SART protocols relating to the collection and preservation of evidence of a sexual assault does not, standing alone, affect the admissibility of evidence in a civil or criminal proceeding.**

04/23/2007 Signed by the Governor

**Effective date: July 1, 2007**