



PARTNERS IN POLICING

HALIFAX

Sexual Assault Investigations within Halifax Regional Municipality

November 18, 2019

Investigation of Sexual Assault Offences - Elements

- Trauma informed first response (Patrol)
- Preliminary investigation (Patrol)
- Routing to Major Crime (Patrol Sergeant /Watch Commander)
- Integrated Special Investigation Section (SAIT Unit)
- Prosecution (PPSNS)

Victim Centered/Trauma Informed Response (Patrol)

- Developed in 2014 for all of HRM
- Engagement of HRP Victim Services Unit early on in the process
- Members trained to respond to unique aspects of this type of crime preventing further victimization
- Intended use is to minimize trauma by collaborating with victims on choice. Also empowerment through trustworthy collaboration/communication

The Preliminary Investigation (Patrol)

- Gathering key details of the crime from victim
- Gathering evidence and determining investigative next steps (search warrant, scene containment, etc.)
- Triage by supervisor to provide direction of investigation

Integrated Special Investigation Section: Sexual Assault Investigative Team (SAIT)

Unit Mandate:

- Investigation of sexual offences involving adult and child victims
- Investigation of physical abuse involving child victims
- Partner with external stakeholders to promote investigative cooperation and efficiency (START/HSART/DCS/SANE)

Specialized Skills:

- Level II Investigators Course
- Level II Sexual Assault Investigation Training
- Trauma informed training
- Specialized training to interview children
- Advanced interviewing skills

Investigative Responsibilities

- Victim/witness interviews
- Liaison with victim
- Evidence gathering
- Warrant preparation & execution
- Processing of exhibits (to RCMP Forensic Laboratory Services/Technical Investigation Services)
- Suspect arrest/Questioning & processing (release/remand)
- Preparation of court files
- Electronic disclosure/Supplementary disclosure
- ViCLAS submission

Prosecution

- Engagement of provincial Victim Services Unit
- Witness preparation. Investigator present with crown for pre-trial interview of witnesses/victims
- Possible further follow-up by crown
- Subpoenas
- Investigators preparation for court
- Actual trial time