

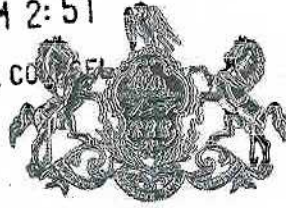
2011

STATE SENATOR  
**JANE CLARE ORIE**  
40TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

2006 NOV 21 PM 2:51

OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL



Senate of Pennsylvania

November 20, 2006

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9400 MCKNIGHT ROAD, SUITE 105  
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2525 ROCHESTER ROAD, SUITE 207  
CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP, PA 15066  
724-776-3500 • FAX: 724-776-3582

Gerald Radke, Director  
Bureau of Facility Licensure and Certification  
Pennsylvania Department of Health  
Room 932,, Health and Welfare Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Director Radke:

I am sending you a copy of the comments of Valerie Kraneski-Schreiber, Founder of the Sexual Assault Response Team of Allegheny County, in the Office of the District Attorney. In the event that you have not received her letter, I am having a copy delivered by messenger today, so that her comments may be received within the comment period.

Ms. Krasneski-Schreiber is offering her comments based on her having worked directly with victims to ensure that physical evidence is collected in a fashion that will ensure its preservation.

I trust that Ms. Krasneski-Schreiber's comments will prove useful to you in promulgating the final form of the regulations

Sincerely,  
  
**JANE C. ORIE**  
State Senator  
40<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District

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2006 NOV 22 AM 11:44  
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

JCO/jmm

Enclosure

cc: Valernie Kraneski-Schreiber



**Sexual Assault Response Team of Allegheny County**  
**Office of the District Attorney**  
Room 401 County Courthouse  
436 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

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2006 NOV 21 PM 1:57  
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November 11, 2006

Gerald Radke, Director  
Bureau of Facility Licensure and Certification  
Department of Health, Room 932  
Health and Welfare Building  
7<sup>th</sup> and Forster Street  
Harrisburg, Pa. 17120

Dear Mr. Radke,

The Sexual Assault Response Team of Allegheny County commends the Department of Health on its proactive stance toward the emergency treatment of individuals who have been the victim of a sexual assault.

The proposed rulemaking related to 28 PA. CODE.CHS. 101 and 117 regarding the minimum requirements, in our opinion, is missing a significant element. The Department of Health should:

1. Strongly encourage/recommend that all hospitals utilize certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE's) to perform evaluation and evidence collection within the emergency department.
2. In geographic areas where there are SANE programs, that are working in association with the District Attorney's, Office, the hospital should contract with that program to provide standardized examinations.

In 2005, there were 259 reported sexual assaults prosecuted in Allegheny County. The District Attorney's Office was only able to obtain 107 (41%) convictions - largely due to a lack of physical evidence. The lack of physical evidence does not mean that an assault did not take place, but the evidence may not have been properly collected.

Therefore, it is our opinion that adding the above statements within the regulation will strengthen the ability of the judicial system to prosecute these heinous crimes.

The Sexual Assault Response Team of Allegheny County (SARTAC) would be honored to provide direct testimony or to speak with a member of the staff related to this important issue. I may be contact via email ([sartac1@hotmail.com](mailto:sartac1@hotmail.com)) or cell phone (724-272-6354).

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Valerie Krasneski-Schreiber*

Valerie Krasneski-Schreiber, RN, BSN, MS, CEN, SANE  
Founder, SARTAC