

8TH Judicial District Regional SART Resolution - 2023

WHEREAS Hopkins County recognizes that work must be done at a societal and local level to reduce the incidence of sexual assault, hold offenders accountable and to help heal victims: now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the Commissioners Court of Hopkins County

That Hopkins County will join with Franklin and Delta Counties to establish the 8th Judicial District Regional Adult Sexual Assault Response Team, effective **January 9, 2023**.

Hopkins County will reappoint individuals to serve on the Regional Sexual Assault Response Team.

- Mary Ferguson or her designee; and
- Will Ramsay or his designee; and
- Lewis Tatum, or his designee; and
- Jason Ricketson or his designee; and
- Kim Basinger or her designee; and
- Donna Pendleton or her designee; and

In addition, Hopkins County will appoint the following individuals to also serve on the Regional Sexual Assault Response Team:

- Charla Singleton or her designee; and
- Ricky Jones or his designee; and
- Lauren Fleming or her designee; and
- Kenny Stillwagoner or his designee; and
- Amy Dykes or her designee; and
- Cassidy Cameron or her designee; and
- Other persons the presiding officer of the response team considers necessary for the operation of the response team or as recommended by the response team.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That in order to create systems that reduce re-traumatization and prioritize victim safety, members of the Regional SART appointed by Hopkins County are directed to work with other team members to:

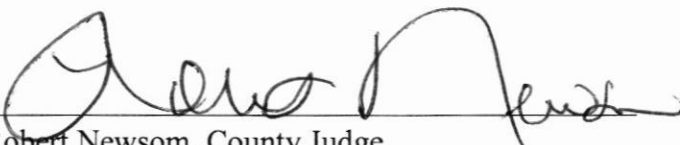
- Elect a presiding officer and any other organizational and decision-making structures deemed for the success of the team;
- Recommend additional members to the team as necessary to fulfill the functions of the team;
- Attend scheduled meetings of the team or provide a designee as permitted by statute;
- Create a written interagency protocol that establishes local and regional processes for investigating and prosecuting sexual assaults, identifying and obtaining medical & forensic care, mental health care and advocacy resources for victims as required by Texas Local Government Code 351.256, no later than December 1, 2022;
- In developing a protocol, the response team shall consider Chapter 56A, Code of Criminal Procedure; may provide different procedures for use within a particular municipality or area of the county served by the response team; and shall prioritize the health and safety of survivors, including those who choose not to make a police report;
- Notify the Court of any statutory vacancies on the team that would require a new appointment within __ days of those occurring;
- Collect and maintain data on the number of sexual assaults reported to local law enforcement agencies and the investigation, prosecution and disposition of such offenses as required by Texas Local Government Code 351.257(A) that will culminate in a written summary to the Commissioners Court by December 1st of every odd numbered year;
- Develop processes for information sharing and conflict resolution between team members;
- Distribute the written protocol to all responding law enforcement and service providers throughout Hopkins County & the 8th Judicial District Region;
- Participate in a minimum of 4 hours of annual cross training with other team members;
- Evaluate the interagency protocol through the utilization of case reviews, with the signed, written consent of the victim as required by Texas Local Government Code 351.258(f); and
- Participate in writing the biennial report to the Commissioners Court as required by Texas Local Government Code 351.257.

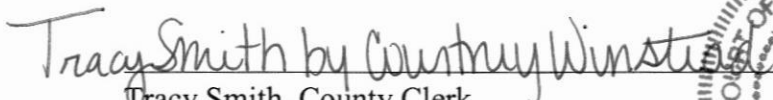
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That Hopkins County will fill any statutory vacancies as requested by the 8th Judicial District Regional SART within 30 days of those vacancies occurring;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

The written biennial report produced by the team shall be posted in a prominent place on the County's website and by law will be available to the public. The report shall not be redacted prior to its publication except for redactions needed to comply with the law to maintain privacy of individuals otherwise identified in the report.


Robert Newsom, County Judge


Tracy Smith, County Clerk

