

# Today's Moderator Boa Smith Program Associate Just Detention International

## Just Detention International is a health and human rights organization that seeks to end sexual violence in all forms of detention.

### **JDI's Core Goals**

- 1. Hold government officials accountable
- 2. Change public attitudes about sexual violence behind bars
- 3. Ensure survivors get the help they need



### **JDI's Core Belief**

No matter what crime someone may have committed, rape is not part of the penalty.



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The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this webinar are those of the presenters and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.



### Webinar Logistics Self-care Questions and comments Archived recording Resources Ask a question here







### Too many people in the room



### **Your Role**

- Provide support, comfort, and information
- Help maintain privacy
- Prepare the survivor to return to the facility





**What Next?** 

- 1. Speak to the survivor
- 2. Review logistics with the nurse and corrections staff
- 3. Have a conversation with them about balancing safety with the well-being of the survivor





### **Things to Negotiate**

- · Where people stand
- · Number of security staff in the room
- Restraints
- · Space to talk privately with the survivor



### **Things to Figure Out Ahead of Time**

- · Location of exams
- · Transportation to the hospital
- · The investigating agency
- The phone tree
- · Meeting with the survivor privately

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"If I had an advocate, it would have saved me so much grief. It would have helped me through that traumatic event immensely. Going through it alone, I didn't know who I could trust and who I could talk to about it — which appeared to be nobody."

 Frank Mendoza, prisoner rape survivor and member of JDI's Survivor Council

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### **Scenario 2: In-Person Services**



Carolina Aparicio
Program Officer
Just Detention International









### **Concerns**

- · Fears about one's own safety
- · Challenging corrections staff
- · Differing understandings of confidentiality
- Providing services in a restrictive environment

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### **What Next?**

- Try to work with what you are given
- Look for a comfortable alternative
- Know your bottom line

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### Follow-Up

- Review your Memorandum of Understanding
- Check in with your liaison
- Figure out your backup plan







"I remember working once with a survivor who was behind a glass partition and having to use the telephone to communicate. One side of the telephone was not working, so we spoke through the glass. We had to raise our voices to hear each other. There were other inmates present, and I worried that his confidentiality was being compromised."

— Karin Stone, Women's Center High Desert











### **Your Role**

- Provide support, comfort, and information
- Help the survivor with strategies
- Talk to the survivor about options for follow-up



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### **Concerns**

- · Time constraints
- · Off-topic calls
- Confidentiality
- Limited coping strategies



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"Thank you for helping me realize I, too, am a person and I didn't deserve the treatment I received. Thank you for helping me realize I have a voice and that there are people willing to listen to me."



— Kerri Cecil, a prisoner rape survivor







### **Concerns**

- · Ongoing abuse
- · Multiple victims
- Potential institutional corruption
- Survivor feels hopeless and alone



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### Question

As an advocate, are there any situations in your work in which you would intervene without permission or without being asked to do so?

Submit your answer in the questions box.

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### **How to Respond**

- Respond compassionately
- Affirm feelings
- Provide resources and materials





## Concerns Inappropriate tone Off-topic and alarming requests Boundary-crossing

## Be clear about your organization's role and limitations to services Reinforce boundaries Photo Max Opporham/Cetty Images

### **Tips**

- · Handle letters as you would a hotline call
- · Send letters via confidential legal mail
- Be mindful of exceptions to confidentiality
- Use simple, clear language, and a respectful tone
- Provide resources, support, information, and referrals

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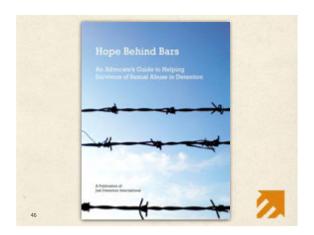




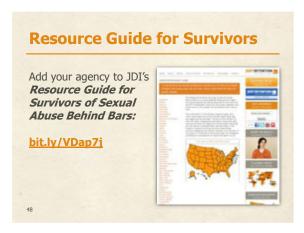
"If you only knew the strength I get every time I get a letter from you all. I used to think I was alone. Thanks so much for the support."

— Ricardo, a prisoner rape survivor









Upcoming Webinar
The World of Corrections: Tips for the "First Termer" Advocate (Part 2)
Date: Wednesday, May 27, 2015 Time: 11am-12:30pm Pacific
Registration information TBA
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