

CKSACC Programs and Services

*FREE, CONFIDENTIAL SERVICES
are available to women 16 or older, who
have experienced the impact of sexual
assault/harassment/abuse, past or present.*

24 Hour Crisis Line

On-Call Crisis-Line Workers will respond to callers who are in need of immediate support or in need of information that will assist them in supporting their loved one.

24 Hour Crisis Line: 519-354-8688

Support and Advocacy

Short or long term support counselling, as well as advocacy and assistance to address individual needs. Appointments can be scheduled by calling the business line at 519-354-8908.

Support for men is available at Family Service Kent (FSK): 519-354-6221.

Outreach

Through co-operative efforts with community partners, support services may be available at locations throughout Chatham-Kent. Let us know if transportation is a barrier for you and we will do our best to accommodate.

Awareness and Prevention

The Centre offers many services to provide education and awareness about the systemic roots and causes of sexualized violence. We work to advance social, political, economic and cultural equality towards the elimination of gender-based violence. Efforts include: Community Displays; Speaking Engagements; Distribution of Printed Information and Special Projects.

Information and Referral

Information and Referral are provided as required to meet individual circumstances. This service is available to women and men.

Planting Seeds

To End Violence Against Women

Call Anytime...

24 Hour Crisis Line: 519-354-8688

Phone/TTY: 519-354-8908

Fax: 519-354-7700

Email: cksacc@cksacc.org

Website: cksacc.org

Facebook Search: @CKSACC

Instagram Search: cksacc

*Chatham-Kent
Sexual Assault Crisis Centre
405 Riverview Drive - Unit 101
Chatham, Ontario
N7M 0N3*



POUR SERVICE ET L'INFORMATION EN FRANCAIS:

CARREFOURS DES FEMMES DU SUD-OUEST DE L'ONTARIO

Heures d'ouverture: Du lundi au vendredi, 9H00 à 17H00
Tél: 519-858-0954 ou 1-888-858-0954 Téléc: 519-858-4762

www.carrefourfemmes.on.ca
bienvenue@carrefourfemmes.on.ca

En cas de besoin d'aide immédiate après les heures normales d'ouverture, appelez la Ligne de soutien pour femmes victimes de violence en composant le 1-877-336-2433



CKSACC is a member of:

The Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres (OCRCC)

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Views expressed in this material are not necessarily the views of the Ontario Government.

Chatham-Kent Sexual Assault Crisis Centre



Information

About Violence Against Rural Women



CKSACC is a grass-roots, anti-violence, equality-seeking organization that provides services for women 16 years of age or older, who have experienced the impact of sexual assault/harassment/abuse, past or present.

Services for men who have experienced sexual abuse are available at:

Family Service Kent: 519-354-6221

Some of the information contained in this brochure was adapted from the 2010 report: *Serving Victims of Violence in Rural Communities - Challenges and Best Practices* prepared by Deborah Kasdorff and Barbara Erb for Victim/Witness Assistance Program, East Region.

Rural women are more vulnerable and at higher risk of sexual and domestic violence than urban women are because they face a number of challenges unique to rural living. For example:

1) Isolation

- Physical isolation is a reality for many rural families. Nearest neighbours may live many kilometres away. Victims of crime may not have access to, or be fully aware of services and supports that may be available to them.
- Social isolation is a tactic commonly used by abusers in domestic violence situations as an effective way to exercise control over the victim. Victims who are isolated from friends and family quickly become dependent on their abusers as their source of information and support. They tend to internalize messages that they are to blame for the abuse they are subjected to.
- Barriers such as distance and lack of telephone service can make support services inaccessible to victims of sexualized violence and they may not receive the help and advocacy they need.
- Ties of kinship in rural communities often prevent women from feeling safe and free to make disclosures to local resources that could assist them for fear the information will leak to their community and affect their day-to-day life.

2) Availability of Weapons

Firearms and other weapons can often found in rural homes. Tools such as axes, sledgehammers, pitchforks and a multitude of other items that can be used to assault and threaten others may be easily accessible to abusers/offenders.

3) Care of Farms and/or Farm Animals

- On a family run farm, partners typically work side by side in the barns and/or the fields. Personal life and business life are closely linked. When violence or abuse becomes part of the relationship, upkeep of the farm can deteriorate. For someone who farms, leaving a marital relationship can mean leaving their home and community, their animals, business assets and their job. Fear of such loss can be a very strong motivation to stay in an abusive relationship.
- For women who work on farms where sexual harassment is prevalent, they may not see leaving the workplace as an option because of the passion they have for their work, concern for animals that may be on the farm, losing their income and livelihood when work opportunities may be scarce in their community.
- If there is police intervention and the male partner is prohibited from returning to the farm, the woman is left with the burden of running the farm on her own; something she may not have the physical and/or financial resources for.
- Farmers are often bonded to the land. The land represents the ability to provide for oneself. The familiarity and love of rural life, the privacy, the close-to-nature belief system and close ties to rural friends and neighbours are often valued much more than life in any other setting. Farmers may also be tied by the love of the farm animals, especially if they are responsible for their daily care, feeding and shelter. Animals are often thought of as 'part of the family'.
- Woman abuse and animal abuse are often linked. Threats of harm to animals, or cruelty and mistreatment of farm animals by abusive partners, is not unusual. Leaving animals that are 'part of the family' in the care and custody of an abuser may not be viewed as an option for many abused women who make the difficult decision to stay rather than leave the animals.

4) Communication

- Telephone: Not all homes have landlines. If, for example, a home is in an isolated area, the cost of phone installation may be prohibitive. The customer may even be expected to pay for installation of telephone poles in addition to the other usual charges.
- Cell phones do not work in areas where there are no cell phone towers. Sometimes phones are shared by several people and there is no privacy to access services. In some domestic violence situations, the abusive partner controls the phone to keep the victim out of touch and to isolate them from their network. This makes it more difficult to reach the victim and for the victim to call for help.
- Email & Internet: This service may not be available to all rural residents. Broadband access is limited in many rural areas.

5) Lack of Transportation

Availability of public transportation is rare in rural communities. Access to transportation is more of an issue than it has ever been and it has not improved over the years. Rural families often live many kilometres from their closest town. Accessing services or leaving an unsafe situation may not be convenient or possible. For example, if a woman is sexually assaulted, otherwise physically harmed or at risk of imminent danger, she may have difficulty finding transportation to a safe place or to a hospital for immediate care. Many women feel that they would have to hitchhike in order to reach service providers, thus putting them at increased risk of danger.

HELP IS AVAILABLE!

For information and support for victims of domestic violence, contact:

Chatham Kent Women's Centre

519-354-6360