



Office of the Texas Governor Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force

Greetings,

We are excited to present the June edition of the Governor's Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force (SASTF) newsletter, filled with the latest updates and news.

In this issue, we spotlight Task Force member Beth Maeker, whose dedication and leadership continue to advance our mission. We also provide important updates on SASTF related legislation from the 89th Texas Legislature and extend our heartfelt thanks to the individuals who testified in support of these critical efforts.

This edition includes the release of the Texas Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Report, showcasing statewide progress and ongoing local community collaboration. We are also excited to share the launch of the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault's (TAASA) newly redesigned website, offering streamlined access to tools, training, and survivor support.

Finally, we highlight upcoming training opportunities designed to strengthen our response and prevention efforts across Texas.

We are grateful for your continued commitment to supporting survivors and building a safer, future for all Texans.

Sincerely,
The SASTF Team

Task Force Member Spotlight: Beth Maeker



Beth Maeker

BSN, RN, CA-CP SANE, SANE-A, SANE-P
Past President, International Association of
Forensic Nursing (IAFN) - Texas Chapter

Beth Maeker is a Registered Nurse with specialized training in the assessment and treatment of patients that have experienced physical and sexual assault and abuse. Beth received her certification as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) in March of 2013. She is certified by the Texas Office of the

Attorney General to provide services to pediatric, adolescent, and adult sexual assault patients. In 2018, she received her international certification as an Adult / Adolescent Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner and in 2019, she received her international certification as a Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner. Beth also works with Texas A&M Health Center of Excellence in Forensic Nursing as a Forensic Nurse Coach in their Adult Sexual Assault Simulation Lab.

Her education includes a BA in psychology, with minors in sociology and addiction recovery studies from Texas Tech University. She returned to school and received her BSN / RN from TTUHSC School of Nursing in 2010.

As a staff nurse, Beth worked in the surgical intensive care unit for 5 years. She left bedside nursing in 2015 to pursue a fulltime career in forensic nursing. Beth began her career with Forensic Nurse Staffing of West Texas where she remained until 2022. After calling Lubbock, Texas her home for 43 years, Beth said 'goodbye' to Lubbock and headed east on I-20 to Fort Worth, where she accepted a position with Texas Health Resources as the System SANE Manager for Texas Health Southwest division.

Beth has received extensive training in non-fatal strangulation, human trafficking and domestic violence. She has conducted numerous trainings on the subject of sexual assault, non-fatal strangulation, human trafficking, and

domestic violence in the West Texas area. She has testified multiple times as an Expert Witness on strangulation cases.

She was a past member of the Lubbock Domestic Violence Task Group, Sex Trafficking Allied Response Team (START), Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), and the Lubbock Human Rescue Coalition. Beth served as the Chairperson for the Lubbock Child Welfare Board from 2021 to 2022.

After serving the past 2 years as the President of the Texas IAFN Chapter, she began her term as the Past President in January of this year.

Texas 89th Legislative Session - SASTF Policy Recommendations

The Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force included **10** policy recommendations in the [2024 Biennial Report to the Texas Legislature](#). The following bills included SASTF recommendations and have been signed by the Governor.

House Bill 47: Authored by Representative Donna Howard, Rep. Tom Oliverson, Rep. Lacey Hull, and Rep. David Cook [Co-authored by Rep. Lulu Flores, Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer, and Rep. Mihaela Plesa]; Effective September 1, 2025.

- **Right to Terminate Lease**: Extends the right to terminate lease to include survivors who were not assaulted in their dwelling or on the premises.
- **Include Legal Services Information in Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Information Sheets for Sexual Assault Survivors**: Adds information about legal service agencies to HHSC Information Sheets, which are provided to all sexual assault survivors presenting at any health care facility.
- **Consideration of Adult Survivors when Granting Continuance**: Previous statute required that courts only consider the impact on child sexual assault survivors and any sexual assault survivor when family violence is also involved when granting a motion for continuance.

Extends consideration of impact to include adult survivors of sexual assault regardless of whether family violence was involved.

- **CVC Reform – Expand Emergency Medical Care (EMC) to Cover 30 Day Follow-up Care:** Expands survivors’ right to reimbursement for follow-up care for a period of 30 days, including HIV prophylaxis, sexually transmitted infection (STI) care, and other necessary prescriptions.
- **Mandate Trauma-Informed Training for Emergency Room (ER) Staff:** Expands trauma-informed training requirements for emergency room medical professionals to include ER Physicians and ER Physicians Assistants, both employed and under contract.
- **Extend Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Certification to be Valid for 3 Years:** Extends current two-year limit on SANE certifications to three years. Approved by the SANE Certification Advisory Board.
- **Mandate Submission of Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Reports to SASTF:** Requires County Commissioners’ Courts to submit SART Reports to the Governor’s Sexual Assault Survivors’ Task Force.
- **Prohibited Employment of Registered Sex Offenders:** Expands prohibited employment for a registered sex offender to include rideshare services. Currently, statute only includes “passenger, taxicab, or limousine transportation services.

House Bill 3073 (The Summer Willis Act): Authored by Representative Donna Howard, Rep. Ellen Troxclair, Rep. Ann Johnson, Rep. David Cook, and Rep. Nicole Collier [Co-authored by: Rep. Salman Bhojani, Rep. Lulu Flores, Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer, and Rep. Mihaela Plesa]; Effective September 1, 2025.

- **Consent in Adult Sexual Assault Cases:** Amends the sexual assault statute by clarifying that consent must be expressed or apparent . Further clarifying that consent is NOT present if the actor knows that the other person is intoxicated or impaired by any substance to the extent that the other person is incapable of consenting. The Senate Criminal Justice Committee substitute removed the section of HB 3073 that specified consent can be withdrawn, and removed the “reasonably should know” and “or unaware that the sexual assault was occurring” standards from the bill.

In an effort to implement some of the SASTF's policy recommendation, the following bills were filed, or amendments were introduced to include the recommendations.

- **Senate Bill 761** (Sen. Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa) – Relating to rights of crime victims, including the enforcement of certain rights of sexual assault victims; authorizing a civil penalty; Effective September 1, 2025.
 - **Definition of Consent:** House Floor Amendment was added on 5/9/25 by Rep. Ann Johnson to include the definition of consent, which was a provision in the SASTF's Consent Bill - House Bill 3073.
 - **Senate Bill 1804** (Sen. Alvarado) – Relating to restitution and compensation paid to victims of certain offenses for tattoo removal related to the offense; Effective September 1, 2025.
 - **Expand CVC Reimbursement to Cover Tattoo Removal:** Expands CVC reimbursement to cover tattoo removals for survivors of trafficking who were “marked” or “branded” by their trafficker. This policy recommendation originated with the SASTF and was referred to the Human Trafficking Task Force for legislative action.
 - **House Bill 1778** (Rep. Thompson) – Relating to human trafficking, prostitution, and child pornography and to the prosecution of sexual or assaultive offenses or the prosecution of a failure to stop or report those offenses; amending and harmonizing certain statute of limitations provisions; creating a criminal offense; increasing a criminal penalty; Effective September 1, 2025.
 - **Expand Evidence of Extraneous Offenses:** Expands Article 38.37 of the Code of Criminal Procedure to allow evidence of extraneous offenses to be admissible in the case in chief for sexual offenses in adult sexual assault cases to explain the state of mind of the defendant and the relationship between defendant and victim. Previously, this article applied to child sexual assault cases only. The SASTF supported this policy change via a recommendation in its 2024 biennial report to the Legislature.
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Special Thanks to those who Testified!



Special thanks to those Task Force members, working group members, and survivor leaders who testified on behalf of [HB 47](#) (SASTF's Omnibus Bill) and [HB 3073](#) (SASTF's Consent Bill) during the [House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee Hearing](#) on April 1st. Notably, the hearing coincided with the first day of Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month – a poignant reminder of the importance of addressing these critical issues.

- **Lavinia Masters** – Task Force Member, Survivor-Centered Working Group Member, Prosecutor Working Group Member, and Survivor Leader
- **Beth Maeker** – Task Force Member, SANE and Forensic Expert Working Group Member, and Southwest Division System SANE Manager at Texas Health
- **Tiffany Larsen** – Co-Chair of the Prosecutor Working Group and Assistant District Attorney at Brazos County District Attorney's Office
- **Jaime Felicia** – Former Prosecutor Working Group Member and Assistant District Attorney at Williamson County District Attorney's Office
- **Summer Willis** – Survivor Leader, Advocate, and Endurance Athlete – who recently crawled the Austin Marathon to raise awareness for survivors and to demonstrate the struggles and challenges survivors face in the aftermath of their assault.

Texas SART Reports

In 2021, the 87th Texas Legislature enacted a law mandating the formation of adult Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) in all Texas counties. A key component of this legislation is the requirement for SARTs to submit a **biennial report** in every odd-numbered year. The wealth of information gathered through this process has led the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) to develop the "Texas SARTs: Findings from the First Biennial Report." This document offers insights from the initial reporting cycle, detailing the functioning and impact of SARTs across Texas. It highlights key challenges, successes, county-specific trends, and future directions. By sharing these findings, TAASA hopes this knowledge can and will be utilized to better support survivors across the state.

Biennial Report Findings

TAASA's New Website

Check out TAASA's new Website!

2025 TAASA CONFERENCE
SEEDS OF CHANGE
JUNE 30 - JULY 2, 2025
EMBASSY SUITES - DENTON CONVENTION CENTER - DENTON, TX

Become a Member Resource Library Our Mission & Values

Sexual Assault Resources

Our resource library provides practical information for survivors and advocates of sexual violence. It includes information about trauma, victim rights, and other resources or options that may be available to assist survivors.

View & Download Materials Crisis Center Locator →

Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA)

We are a statewide organization committed to being the unifying voice to eliminate sexual violence in Texas. As the statewide coalition of survivors, advocates, rape crisis centers, and allied professionals, we are committed to fostering a culture that respects the fundamental rights and dignity of all.

Our Initiatives →

- **Access vital resources** – [Download helpful materials](#) for survivors including TAASA's guidebook and brochures, find links to legal options, and contact information for attorneys and legal aid.
- **Order brochures online** – Find survivor resources and download educational materials [here](#).
- **Learn about the movement's history** – Explore the [History of the Movement](#) section to understand the origins that shaped TAASA's organization.
- **Discover TAASA's initiatives** – Learn about a few [TAASA-specific projects](#) such as *Men's Engagement*, *Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs)*, and the *Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force (SASTF)*.

- **Find training and support** – TAASA continues to provide resource guides, [training opportunities](#), and [advocacy support](#) for organizations and individuals assisting survivors across the state.
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Training Opportunities

NOVA's 51st Annual Training Event - NOVA51: Why We Advocate: Celebrating Community

Virtual

July 21 - 25, 2025

[NOVA Training Event Registration](#)

SASTF July Webinar - *History and Application of Rape Shield Laws*

July 30 2025, from 11:30am - 1:00pm

[SASTF Webinar Registration](#)

37th Annual Crimes Against Children Conference

Sheraton Dallas Hotel - Dallas, Texas

August 3 - 7, 2025

[CAC Conference Registration](#)

Prevent Child Abuse America National Conference: *Power of Prevention*

Hyatt Regency Portland - Portland, Oregon

August 12 - 14, 2025

[Prevent Child Abuse Conference Registration](#)

National Sexual Assault Conference

Anaheim, California

August 26 - 28, 2025

[National Sexual Assault Conference Registration](#)

Conference on Crimes Against Women Summit: Beyond the Bounds

Courtyard by Marriott South Padre Island - South Padre Island, Texas

September 22 - 23, 2025

[CCAW Summit Registration Link](#)

Texas Department of Public Safety - Interdiction for the Protection of Children (IPC) Training

[IPC Registration Link](#)

Sexual Assault Family Violence Investigator Course (SAFVIC) Trainings

[SAFVIC Registration Link](#)