



## Working to end sexual violence in Maryland

The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Inc. (MCASA) is the statewide collective voice advocating for accessible, compassionate care for survivors of sexual violence, and accountability for all offenders.

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## Public Policy

MCASA supports legislation that promotes justice for survivors of sexual assault, accountability for offenders, and protection for the general public. MCASA responds to policy questions and legislative initiatives throughout the year and is represented in Annapolis during the legislative session.

*MCASA tracked and advocated for approximately 110 bills during the 2010 legislation session to assure that the needs of survivors were addressed. Due to the tragic murder of 11 year old Sarah Foxwell by a sex offender in December 2010, state legislators were moved to make sexual assault a priority with over 80 sex offender bills being introduced.*

## Community Outreach

MCASA promotes public awareness of sexual violence issues through public events, statewide media, as well as literature and online at [www.mcasa.org](http://www.mcasa.org).

*MCASA partners with local organizations to co-host events, such as Take Back the Night, an internationally held march and rally with the mission of ending sexual violence in all forms and lending support to survivors.*

## Education

MCASA is a professional resource for those working directly with the survivors of sexual assault through literature, online resources, as well as by sponsoring local and regional trainings and statewide conferences.

*MCASA provides 40 hour advocacy training to the staff and volunteers of rape crisis and recovery centers statewide and supports annual conferences focused on preventing sexual assault on college campuses, as well as with the general population.*

## Technical Assistance

MCASA provides technical assistance and resources to professionals in the field through our Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI), Women of Color Network (WOCN), and the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) and Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) programs.

*MCASA co-convenes conferences focused on community-based Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs), as well as those addressing the unique impact of sexual violence on communities of color.*

## Legal Services

The Sexual Assault Legal Institute, a program of MCASA, provides direct civil legal services for victims and survivors of sexual assault. SALI also provides technical assistance and training for attorneys, rape crisis and recovery center staff and volunteers, and other professionals working with survivors.

*MCASA's SALI is one of the only legal services programs in the country devoted solely to survivors.*