

CCDU

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

SERIES 2020



MEDICO LEGAL & FAMILY JUSTICE

Week 6: Article 6 of 6

A PSYCHOEDUCATIONAL AND EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE

Violence and abuse can happen to anyone!

Perpetrators of violence may use guilt, fear, shame and intimidation to victimise others and wear them down. Every day, those impacted by gender based violence, sexual abuse, dating violence and stalking find the help they need in the form of safety, protection from their abuser, legal help, counselling, food, clothing, spiritual support, medical assistance, and so many other services. Help is available.

Medico Legal

Medico-legal involves both medical and legal aspects working together to provide assessments and medical reports for victims of trauma and abuse. These reports can be used in Civil and Criminal cases, personal injury claims and liability matters. The report is also used to determine the extent of injury/ existence of remorse and the likelihood of reoffending.

Family Justice

The Criminal Justice System (CJS) can be a frightening and unfriendly place for victims. The Family Justice Unit is vital as it supports victims throughout the processes to help them map and move through the CJS. The Family Justice Unit works in collaboration with community partners and agencies working together to provide a safe and welcoming environment for the victims and survivors of violence.

WHAT CAN I DO:

Changing social views and perceptions take time – don't give up in trying to make society a better place for all.

Don't be a perpetrator of violence – use better and more effective ways of dealing with conflict.

If you have experienced violence, get to know your rights, speak to someone who understands, who supports and who is able to direct you to the resources to break from the cycle of violence.

Don't turn a blind eye – if you see an act of violence, alert the necessary authorities to respond or intervene.

Champion change and support or initiate local rallies, events and social advocacy for change.

RESOURCES AT WITS: WWW.WITS.AC.ZA

Transformation Office: email: Cecilia.smith@wits.ac.za
Gender Equity Office: email: info.geo@wits.ac.za or 011 717 9790
CCDU : email: info.ccd@wits.ac.za

#WitsAgainstGBV

UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND,
JOHANNESBURG

CCDU
COUNSELLING AND CAREERS
DEVELOPMENT UNIT
Division of Student Affairs

iThemba
RAPE & TRAUMA SUPPORT CENTRE

MEDICO LEGAL SERVICES	FAMILY JUSTICE UNIT SERVICES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide victims with easy and efficient access to medical experts for their medical needs To provide comprehensive and integrated quality and professional medico-legal services To provide quality and professional medico-legal assessments and reports at the shortest time possible To provide a safe, warm and conducive environment for victims to receive attention and do assessments at one venue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide basic paralegal advice To provide explanations of legal process To provide court preparation To provide court support and accompaniment To provide post trial debriefing To provide assistance with applications for protection orders To provide maintenance, divorce, custody issues 	
MEDICO LEGAL & FAMILY JUSTICE RESPONSIBILITIES The Department of Community Safety is founded on the following principles:		
Rights based and Victim centred Community awareness and Education Partnership approach Quality care	Respect and dignity Sensitive environment Co-ordinated services Timely response & Safety	Non-discrimination Commitment Comprehensive response Accountability
FACILITATE AND GIVE ASSISTANCE TO COMPLETE PROTECTION ORDERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain concepts and processes Gather relevant background information to assess if client meets criteria Explain application submission process to court Explain process that unfolds after the issue of Form 4 & Form 5 Follow up 	COORDINATE AND MONITOR ALL CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE VICTIMS IN GAUTENG PROVINCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All GBV victims have maximized access to Criminal Justice System Rapid response to all GBV matters reported 	
TRACK GENDER BASED VIOLENCE MATTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To offer support to the victims and to ensure GBV cases do not fall through the cracks To provide continuous communication to victims on the status of their case 	RING FENCE COMPLEX AND HIGH PROFILE MATTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor trends in reported cases of GBV and attend to challenges that hinder the victim from actively participating in the CJS Constant follow up with all role players Address the bottlenecks that may hinder progress of the case 	
ENSURE COURT SUPPORT TO ALL GBV VICTIMS THROUGHOUT THE COURT PROCESSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Court Education Contact victims telephonically to follow up on the outcome Refer client to their nearest service provider for therapy Facilitate complaints process if required by the victim 	BASIC LEGAL SUPPORT: DIVORCE/SUMMONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of clients' legal marital status Inform client of rights in terms of legislation Assist in the completion of needed documentation Refer client through referral matrix Follow up 	
FACILITATE AND GIVES ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT MAINTENANCE ORDER APPLICATIONS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain concept and processes Assist in the completion of needed documentation. Refer client through referral matrix 	FACILITATE REFERRALS TO PRO BONO LAW CLINIC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation on civil matters Legal advice and education Legal representation on civil matters Information sessions 	
<p>Having a safety plan in place may be necessary and it can be as simple as creating a list of emergency numbers, contacts and personal information. A Good place to start is perhaps contact Ikhaya Lethemba 011 240 3600</p>		