



Frequently Asked Questions: First Responder to Sexual Assault and Abuse Training™

Who will benefit from First Responder to Sexual Assault and Abuse Training™?

Professionals and paraprofessionals in varying fields (including social workers, victim services advocates, police, crown prosecutors, teachers etc) will benefit from First Responder to Sexual Assault and Abuse Training™.

We know that as widespread as the crimes of sexual violence are, the acceptance and discussion of sexual violence continues to be plagued with tremendous societal stigma. This stigma results in continued silence, inadequate resources for prevention and intervention, and low levels of reporting the crime – approximately only 8% of sexual assaults in Alberta are reported to the police. Professionals, family, friends and other first responders across Alberta share a common responsibility in providing adequate and timely supports for victims who have been sexually assaulted. However, these same people often lack the knowledge, understanding and abilities to be able to provide survivors with a consistent, effective and standardized response. A first responder's potential to significantly influence the reporting decisions of survivors of sexual assault is great. With a strategically placed question, a positive, supportive, non-blaming approach and accurate information about available services and the law, first responders can act as bridges for survivors to much needed sexual assault services that have the potential to foster healing and create access to justice. The many negative effects of sexual assault can be mitigated and survivors can reclaim and regain their healthy social and economic functioning.

What can I expect to take away from the training?

The training has two over-arching learning objectives:

- 1) To educate individuals about the personal, cultural and legal aspects of sexual assault and sexual abuse.
- 2) To enable individuals to recognize, define and respond appropriately to disclosures of sexual assault and sexual abuse.

First Responders to Sexual Assault and Abuse Training™ is based on six Modules that are delivered over a two day period by Facilitators who have been certified by AASAS. These Modules include: Critical Communication Skills for First Responders, Child Sexual Abuse, Adults Who Were Sexually Abused as Children, Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment and Rethinking Prevention. This curriculum is a comprehensive adult education curriculum outlining the knowledge and skills necessary for helping professionals to identify, respond effectively to disclosures of sexual assault/abuse and refer them to specialized supports and services.

A positive and supportive response to a disclosure of sexual assault and/or abuse is simply an initial step on a person's healing journey. First Responders to Sexual Abuse and Assault Training™ isn't a course that teaches professionals how to provide trauma informed counselling, investigative interviewing or other interventions for victims of sexual violence. Think of it as CPR as opposed to surgery on the side of the road – It is the first response, something to bridge the gap between disclosure and access to healing services and supports.

What is the length of First Responder to Sexual Assault and Abuse Training™?

First Responder to Sexual Assault and Abuse Training™ takes place over two days, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

What is the cost of First Responder to Sexual Assault and Abuse Training™?

The cost of First Responder to Sexual Assault and Abuse Training™ is \$200 per person which includes a participant manual, morning snacks/refreshments, and two days of training.

Who takes care of the organization and planning logistics First Responder to Sexual Assault and Abuse Training™(i.e. booking facility; collection of registration fees; advertising/promotion; coordinating facilitators; etc.)?

AASAS is responsible for the planning and delivery of First Responder to Sexual Assault and Abuse Trainings™ across the province. All organization and planning considerations will flow through the AASAS office, via the AASAS Continuing Education Coordinator, including booking dates, booking facilitators, renting the training facility, preparing participant manuals and other workshop materials; processing all revenue and expenditures; and collecting registrations.

At AASAS we know that every community and organization is unique and we are especially considerate of that when we plan First Responder to Sexual Assault and Abuse Trainings™. The AASAS Continuing Education Coordinator will manage all organization and planning arrangements in a collaborative way, liaising with a community or organizational contact.

Is there a minimum/maximum amount of participants required for First Responder to Sexual Assault and Abuse Training™?

First Responder to Sexual Assault and Abuse Training™ is intended for participant groups of 15 to 20 persons.

How can I book a First Responder to Sexual Assault and Abuse Training™?

If you would like to coordinate a First Responder Training in your community, organization, or institution, please contact the AASAS Continuing Education Coordinator:

Phone: 403-237-6905 ext 268

Email: mailbox@aaas.ca

To register for a training, please go to www.aasas.ca to find a training in your area.

