

Legal Support and Advocacy Services **DOES/IS NOT:**

- Provide therapeutic counselling.
- Tell you what to do. Talking to the Legal Support and Advocacy Worker does not mean that you have to report to the police or go to court.
- Assist offending parents.
- Provide crisis or suicide intervention, but will refer to/arrange for appropriate services.
- Provide transportation or housing.
- Go to crime scene or victim's/survivor's home.
- Work with children, but will refer to community resources.
- Available after hours, weekends, or holidays.



**About Avalon Sexual Assault Centre —  
Who We Are**

Avalon Centre is the only sexual assault centre in the Halifax Regional Municipality. We are a registered, not-for-profit, community based, charitable organization. The agency was established in 1983 and incorporated in 1984. We are a women-centered organization and provide a leadership role in ending all forms of sexual violence against women and children. We are committed to providing support programs, counseling, education, and advocacy for women affected by sexual violence. Our vision is to eliminate sexual violence, social injustice and other forms of oppression.

We gratefully acknowledge the core funding support provided by the Province of Nova Scotia, Department of Community Services, and the Halifax Regional Municipality, and the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia.

All donations from the public are gratefully accepted. Tax receipts will be issued upon request. We are an Associated Member of the Donor Option program, through the Metro United Way.

Avalon Sexual Assault Centre  
1526 Dresden Row, 4th Floor  
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3K3  
Business Line: (902)422-4240  
After Hours Response Line: (902)425-0122  
Fax Line: (902)422-4628  
E-Mail: [avaloncentre@eastlink.ca](mailto:avaloncentre@eastlink.ca)  
[www.avaloncentre.ca](http://www.avaloncentre.ca)

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**Business Line:** (902) 422-4240

**Fax Line:** (902) 422-4628

**SANE Business Line:** (902) 422-6503

**SANE Fax Line:** (902) 422-4962

**SANE Response Line:** (902) 425-0122

[avaloncentre@eastlink.ca](mailto:avaloncentre@eastlink.ca)

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## Legal Support and Advocacy Services: A Basic Overview

The Legal Support and Advocacy Worker provides information and support to sexually assaulted women, non-offending parents, survivors of historical sexual abuse, adults involved with our SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) Program, and advocates and makes referrals on their behalf. The focus is to present options and emotionally support victims/survivors through the criminal justice system, the police process, and medical care so that clients can make informed decisions.

To call or schedule an appointment with the Legal Support and Advocacy Worker contact Avalon Centre at 422-4240 extension 28, or by email at [avalonlegal@eastlink.ca](mailto:avalonlegal@eastlink.ca) during office hours.

### Legal Support and Advocacy Services **DOES:**

- Provide justice related support to sexually assaulted women aged 16 years and older, non-offending parents of children who have been sexually abused/assaulted, and survivors of historical sexual abuse.

- Provides emotional support to victims/survivors who are trying to make informed decisions about their options after sexual assault.
- Provides information about your options after sexual assault, including the option of not reporting, so you can make informed decisions.
- Assists the general public requesting support advocacy, information or referral.
- Provides general information regarding medical care, the SANE Program, and in helping women to prepare for forensic evidence collection.
- Provides information about the process of reporting to police and making a police statement.
- Provides general legal information about the process of the Criminal Justice System.
- Provides court preparation that includes preparing the victim/survivor for the emotional trauma that many people experience when testifying in sexual assault hearings/trials.
- Provides court accompaniment and debriefing.
- Provides support from initial contact through to post trial sentencing where possible.
- Individual and systemic advocacy
- Accompany victim/survivor for court related meetings such as police, Crown, or advocacy related meetings.
- Provides accompaniment to the hospital, police station or to court during office hours.
- Encourages victim/survivor to identify strengths and coping strategies.
- Encourages client to develop a self-care plan, or a safety plan if appropriate.
- Encourages victim/survivor to build a support system, this may include counselling.
- Provides information and referrals within Avalon Centre and in the community.
- Assists victims/survivors in accessing legal related services from other agencies, i.e. Police, Victim Services, and Crown etc.
- Services are free and confidential.

### Legal Support and Advocacy Services **DOES/IS NOT:**

- Give legal advice.