

## WINDSOR COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FETI PROCESS

**Purposes:** To provide clarity around the referral process for the Forensic Experiential Trauma Interviews (FETI) conducted by WISE's Multi-disciplinary Interview and Training Center (MITC) office in Windsor County cases of domestic violence.

Through WISE, Windsor County has an additional tool to help investigate crimes of domestic violence: FETI interviews. The purpose of these interviews is to access additional information regarding the dynamics between perpetrator and victim. They are not intended to replace law enforcement investigations or Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (Network) advocacy. With this in mind, the following process will ensure that interviews are organized, provide useful information, and comply with discovery obligations.

### **I. Initial Law Enforcement Referral:**

- a. After sending a criminal case to the State's Attorney's Office, a law enforcement officer may make a direct referral to WISE's MITC office, providing contact information to both WISE and the victim to ensure they are able to arrange an interview. This direct referral may also be made by an officer in cases where there is no immediate criminal charge.

### **II. State's Attorney referral:**

- a. If the Windsor SA's office receives a case where it believes a FETI interview would be appropriate, it will make a referral to WISE, including contact information for the victim and initial PC affidavit(s). The investigating officer will be copied on this referral.

### **III. Network Advocate referral:**

- a. Network advocates are often supporting survivors who are not engaged with the criminal legal system. They may provide information about FETI interviews to victims and make referrals. These interview recordings may be shared with the police department in the town in which the reported activity took place.

### **IV. Interview arranged between victim and WISE:**

- a. After receiving a referral, WISE MITC staff will work to arrange a FETI interview with the victim. Participants for this interview will include the victim and the WISE interviewer but may also include a Network (WISE, Women's Freedom Center, Safeline) advocate for support. The FETI interview will be audio and video recorded.

### **V. Interview materials provided:**

- a. If there is a criminal case in process or the victim chooses, the WISE MITC office will send notes and any video and audio recordings of the interview to the SA's office and the investigating officer. The notes will include notable timestamps from the interview.

### **VI. Follow up by law enforcement and advocates:**

- a. After reviewing the notes and the interview materials, the assigned attorney from the Windsor SA's office will request any next investigative steps directly from the arresting agency.
- b. The assigned attorney will provide all necessary discovery from the interview to the Defense and update any discovery notices accordingly.
- c. Ongoing advocacy support from the local Network program will be available to the victim.
- d. If additional victim interviews are wanted by law enforcement, WISE MITC staff will be contacted regarding the possibility of scheduling another FETI.



---

Ward H. Goodenough  
Windsor County State's Attorney  
5 South Main Street, Suite 208  
White River Junction, VT 05001  
802-295-8870