

## **Sample Template - Written Agreement for Acute Pediatric Transfers**

### **Prepared by the Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Services Implementation Task Force**

Public Act 100-0775 expands the Sexual Assault Survivors Emergency Treatment Act (SASETA) to ensure that all survivors of sexual assault and sexual abuse are treated in a timely manner by health care professionals who are specially trained to conduct medical forensic examinations of sexual assault and sexual abuse survivors. The Act is the product of a yearlong collaboration among the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Office of the Attorney General, child abuse pediatricians, sexual assault nurse examiners, and other medical providers, rape crisis advocates, children's advocacy centers, hospitals, state's attorney's offices, and state agencies.

Public Act 100-0775 established the Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Services Implementation Task Force (Implementation Task Force) and set forth numerous goals to accomplish before December 31, 2023. One of the goals is "to facilitate the development of areawide treatment plans among hospitals and pediatric health care facilities;" [410 ILCS 70/9.5(c)(1)]

The Implementation Task Force prepared this document to satisfy this statutory mandate, in part. Hospitals are not required to use this document and may modify it to meet the needs of their organizations and community. Please email [sane@atg.state.il.us](mailto:sane@atg.state.il.us) to request a Microsoft Word version of the sample template.

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## **Sample Template - Written Agreement for Acute Pediatric Transfers**

This Written Agreement for Acute Pediatric Transfers (the “Agreement”) is created and agreed upon by, and between, \_\_\_\_\_, Treatment Hospital, and \_\_\_\_\_, “Treatment Hospital with Approved Pediatric Transfer” or “Transfer Hospital”, (collectively, the “Participating Hospitals”) and shall be effective on MONTH DATE, 20XX.

The Participating Hospitals recognize the specialty services that a person under the age of 13 who presents with injuries or trauma resulting from sexual assault or abuse (“Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor”) requires and that “Treatment Hospital” provides such specialty services.

“Treatment Hospital with Approved Pediatric Transfer” or “Transfer Hospital” shall transfer all acute Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivors to (Treatment Hospital) to receive medical forensic services, as defined by the Sexual Assault Survivors Emergency Treatment Act (SASETA) and Administrative Code, in accordance with this Agreement. Acute Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivors present with a complaint of sexual assault/abuse within a minimum of the last 7 days or who have disclosed past sexual assault/abuse by a specific individual and were in the care of that individual within a minimum of the last 7 days. “Treatment Hospital with Approved Pediatric Transfer” or “Transfer Hospital” shall transfer all other patients in accordance with any existing Transfer Agreement between the Participating Hospitals, if one exists, or applicable law.

“Treatment Hospital” shall accept the transfer of all Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivors from the “Treatment Hospital with Approved Pediatric Transfer” or “Transfer Hospital” and provide medical forensic services. The Participating Hospitals shall comply with the requirements of the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA), SASETA, and all other applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances in the operation of this Agreement.

In the four sections below, this Agreement sets forth:

- 1) the criteria for transferring a Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor to “Treatment Hospital”,
- 2) an agreement for appropriate transfer of a Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor to “Treatment Hospital”,
- 3) requirements for implementation and review of the Agreement, and
- 4) a decision tree tool entitled “Determining the Need for Transfer of a Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor”.

### **SECTION 1**

#### **Transfer Criteria**

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The “Treatment Hospital with Approved Pediatric Transfer” or “Transfer Hospital” agrees that, for the purposes of this Agreement, the Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivors who require transfer to “Treatment Hospital” for further evaluation of sexual assault or abuse are those who meet the following criteria:

- Require subspecialty medical or surgical care which may include but not be limited to genitourinary, obstetrics, surgery, neuro, child life, social work or child protective team; and/or
- An acute medical forensic exam.

The Participating Hospitals also agree that, for the purposes of these Transfer Criteria, “pediatric” means the following:

- Any survivor less than 13 years of age.
- An individual with a disability does not change the applicability of the above criteria.

The Participating Hospitals further agree that pediatric patients may require an acute medical forensic exam if one or more of the following exist:

- Physical findings concerning for acute sexual assault/abuse, including signs of genital trauma or bleeding;
- A complaint of sexual assault/abuse by an individual within a minimum of the past 7 days;
- A complaint of past sexual assault/abuse by a specific individual and was in the care of that individual within a minimum of the last 7 days; or
- Anyone that presents requesting additional services or requesting transfer.

## **SECTION 2**

### **Pediatric Transfer Agreement**

“Treatment Hospital with Approved Pediatric Transfer” or “Transfer Hospital” will follow the steps outlined below to ensure that the transfer is appropriate and that the safety and health of the Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor will be maintained during the transfer process.

“Treatment Hospital with Approved Pediatric Transfer” or “Transfer Hospital” shall:

1. Not directly interview the Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor. A brief history may be taken from the non-offending parent or legal guardian without the Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor present.
2. Provide a medical screening examination assessing for acute medical needs such as difficulty breathing, severe pain and/or bleeding or trauma, and necessary stabilizing treatment prior to transfer of the Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor. In the event the Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor has an emergency medical condition that has not been stabilized, EMTALA requirements for transferring an unstable patient shall be met.

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3. Contact "Treatment Hospital" via (phone# XXXX) and notify of the need to transfer a Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor. Receive the name of an accepting physician and provide an appropriate handoff to the "Treatment Hospital".
4. Provide the Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor and non-offending parent or legal guardian with an explanation of the reason for the transfer to another hospital for treatment, including the uniform materials created by the Office of the Illinois Attorney General. Attempt to secure their consent for transfer whenever possible.
  - a. If a Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor or non-offending parent or legal guardian decline transfer, consider involving the Department of Children and Family Services for immediate protective custody. Also consider taking protective custody of the child for medical purposes if indicated.
5. Provide a copy of the emergency department record to the "Treatment Hospital". This record should not be sent with a Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor's non-offending parent or legal guardian who is transporting the survivor in their own personal vehicle. In case of transportation via personal vehicle, the record should be sent via fax to the "Treatment Hospital" and receipt of the fax should be documented in the "Treatment Hospital with Approved Pediatric Transfer's" or "Transfer Hospital's" medical record. The record shall include the following:
  - a. A completed emergency department admission form;
  - b. Emergency provider notes;
  - c. Clinical findings if any;
  - d. Nurses' notes;
  - e. The name and relationship to the Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor, if known, of any person present during an examination conducted pursuant to this section;
  - f. Observations of signs and symptoms and the presence of any trauma or injury (e.g., cuts, scratches, bruises, red marks, and broken bones), if any examination was conducted or treatment rendered;
  - g. Results of any tests;
  - h. Medications administered (if applicable);
  - i. Information related to reporting (i.e. police report number, Department of Children and Family Services intake information, etc.);
  - j. All individuals involved in the survivor's care or who came in contact with the survivor at the hospital; and
  - k. The emergency department record shall not reflect any conclusions regarding whether a crime occurred (i.e. criminal sexual assault, criminal sexual abuse).
6. Maintain chain of custody in the handling of any evidence from the Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor including but not limited to their clothing.
  - a. The "Treatment Hospital with Approved Pediatric Transfer" or "Transfer Hospital" shall handle the Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor and clothing as minimally as possible.

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- i. If removal of any clothing is necessary to render emergency services, removal should be attempted without cutting, tearing, or shaking garments.
    - ii. All loose or removed articles of clothing shall be placed in separate paper bags. Each bag shall be sealed and labeled with the Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor's name, the health care provider's name that collected the item, the type of item, a description of contents and the date and time the item was collected.
  - b. The "Treatment Hospital with Approved Pediatric Transfer" or "Transfer Hospital" shall not attempt to obtain any specimens for evidentiary purposes (e.g., blood, saliva, hair samples, etc.) unless absolutely necessary (i.e. the Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor needs to urinate prior to transfer or needs a diaper change prior to transfer).
    - i. If the Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor needs to urinate, a dirty urine sample should be collected by the "Treatment Hospital with Approved Pediatric Transfer" or "Transfer Hospital" in a clean, dry specimen container. The container should be sealed and labeled with the Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor's name, the health care provider's name that collected the urine, and the date and time the urine was collected. The container should then be placed in a biohazard bag.
    - ii. If the Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor needs a diaper change prior to transfer, the diaper should be collected in a paper bag. The paper bag should be sealed and labeled with the Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor's name, the health care provider's name that collected the diaper, a description of the contents, and the date and time the diaper was collected. In addition, mark on the outside of the bag that the item is wet and needs to be dried immediately. Do not place the diaper or paper bag containing the diaper in a plastic bag.
  - c. If any clothing or specimens are collected at the "Treatment Hospital with Approved Pediatric Transfer" or the "Transfer Hospital" then the "Treatment Hospital with Approved Pediatric Transfer" or the "Transfer Hospital" should maintain chain of custody of the item and transfer the item directly to the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction. Transferring of evidence to law enforcement should not delay the transfer of the Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor. Evidence should never be sent with the Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor or the non-offending parent or legal guardian.
- 7. The "Treatment Hospital with Approved Pediatric Transfer" or "Transfer Hospital" must still notify proper authorities including the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Law Enforcement. Notification of these agencies should not delay the transfer of the Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor.
- 8. A Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor and non-offending parent or legal guardian may be transported by ambulance, law enforcement, or personal vehicle.

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- a. A risk assessment should be performed prior to allowing a non-offending parent or legal guardian to transfer the Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor in a personal vehicle.
- b. If there are any concerns for the safety of the Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor, then another mode of transportation should be chosen.

**“Treatment Hospital” shall:**

1. Have available space and staff for treatment of the Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor;
2. Agree to accept the transfer of the Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor and to provide appropriate medical treatment and forensic evidence collection as indicated;
3. Have a member of the health care team available to respond without delay to perform a medical screening exam on a Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor;
4. Have a member of the health care team available to respond without delay to perform a medical forensic exam on a Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor in a private, age-appropriate or developmentally-appropriate space;
5. Have members of the health care team refer to the Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor by code;
6. Provide medical forensic services to the Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor, in accordance with its Sexual Assault Treatment Plan approved by IDPH; and
7. Issue a sexual assault services voucher for all eligible survivors and provide a copy of the voucher to the Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor, ambulance, and any other appropriate entities that bill separately from the hospital.

**SECTION 3**

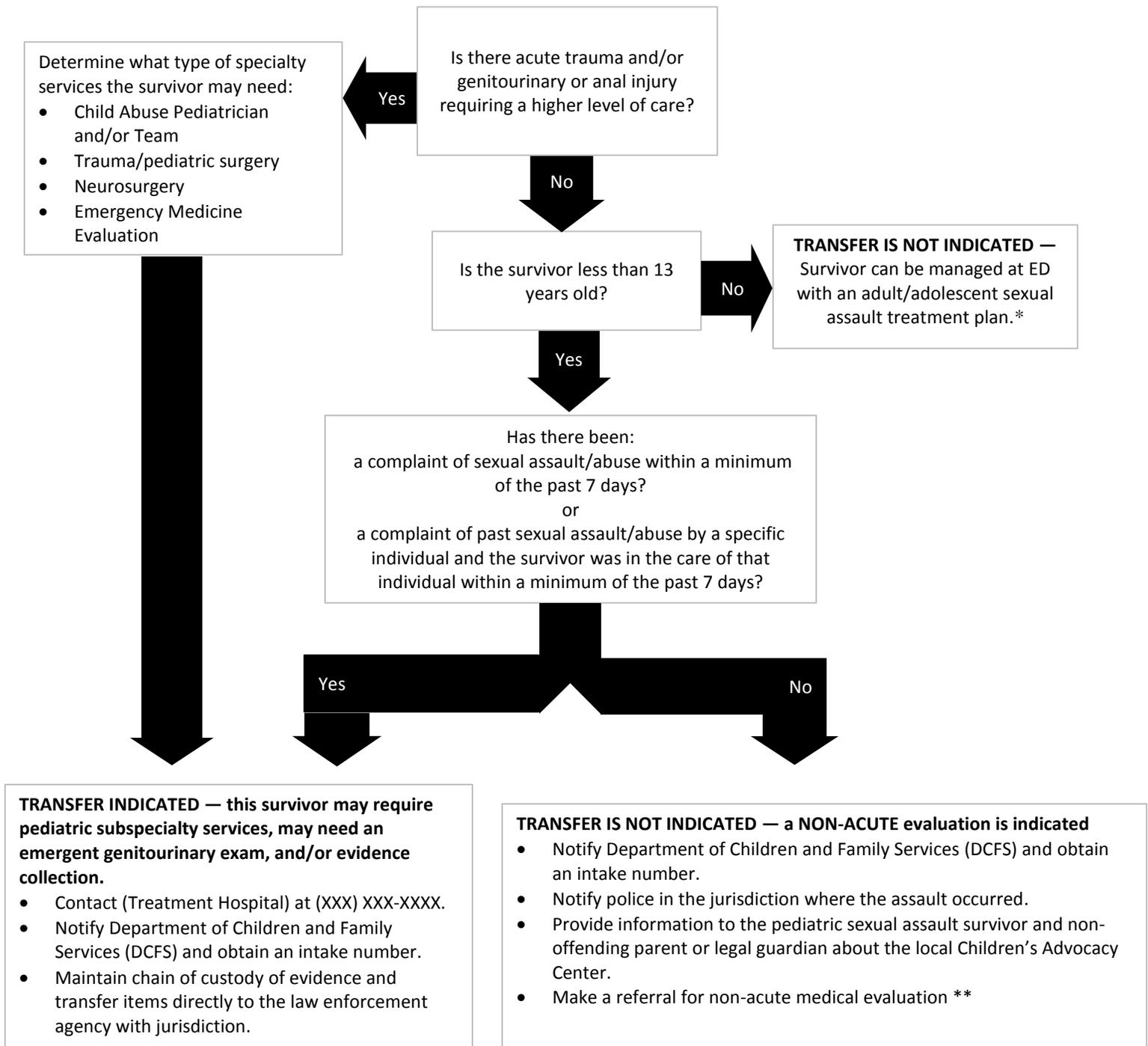
**Implementation and Review of Agreement**

1. The Participating Hospitals shall designate a representative who will act as contact and decision maker for implementation and review of the Agreement. Any change to this designee or to any other information related to the Participating Hospitals will be immediately communicated to the other party.
2. Representatives will reevaluate the Agreement activity and collaborate to revise approximately every 6 months, and shall formally review and resubmit the Agreement for IDPH approval no less frequently than every three (3) years.

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## SECTION 4

# Determining the Need for Transfer of a Pediatric Sexual Assault Survivor



\*Treatment Hospitals and Treatment Hospitals with Approved Pediatric Transfer are equipped to care for both adult and adolescent sexual assault survivors. Avoid speculum examinations in sexual assault survivors that are not otherwise sexually active or when the sexual assault survivor declines. Unnecessary transfer can lead to (1) Loss of evidence (2) Delay of time sensitive medical treatment (i.e. HIV and pregnancy prophylaxis medications) (3) Increase survivor and family anxiety (4) Inappropriate utilization of resources.

\*\*Once DCFS and police reports are made, a referral can be made to the local Children’s Advocacy Center by calling (XXX) XXX-XXXX and leaving a message about the referral including the sexual assault survivor’s name, DOB, and DCFS intake number.

By signing below, the Participating Hospitals agree to their roles and responsibilities as outlined above and execute this Agreement as of the Effective Date.

**Treatment Hospital**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Treatment Hospital with Approved Pediatric Transfer or Transfer Hospital**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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