

What do you do if there is a suspicion of sexual assault?

Thursday 01 December 2022 at 12:30

Dr Elisabeth Alton

MA MB BS MRCP

Elisabeth is a named GP for safeguarding adults working for Humber and North Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership. She has a Masters degree in Safeguarding Adults, Law, Policy and Procedure from Keele University. Along with Dr Joy Shacklock she co-produced the RCGP Adult Safeguarding Toolkit. Elisabeth sat on the Decision-making and mental capacity NICE guideline [NG108] committee and has worked extensively in implementing good practice around the MCA in primary care nationally. Currently she is involved in research into the interface of primary care and safeguarding in care homes in conjunction with the Department of Health and Social Care at Hull University.

Her interest in forensic examination of adults at risk of harm stems from being involved in safeguarding adult reviews where the victim had been injured and recognising the inequality of service between children and adults that currently exists. She is currently the clinical lead for a pilot project in the Humber region providing forensic medicals for adults at risk of harm.



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Dr Sandy Fielding

MB ChB. FFLM

Sandy Fielding has worked as a Forensic Physician since 2003. She has worked in the West Midlands, Hampshire, Wiltshire, Staffordshire and Dorset in both Custody and Sexual Offences. Prior to 2003 she worked as a GP for several years.

She was involved in the setting up and development of Treetops, the Sexual Assault Referral Centre for Hampshire and in 2014 she became a Fellow of the FFLM for her work in the area of Sexual Offences.

Sandy has been an Examiner for the FFLM since 2018 and is now the Lead Examiner for the OSCEs and is the Joint Chief Examiner with Dr ME Vooijs.

She continues to work in both Custody and Sexual Offences.



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Prof Margaret Stark

LLM MSc (Med Ed) FFLM (Founding) FACBS FHEA FACLM FRCP
FFCFM(RCPA) RCPATHME DGM DMJ DAB

Margaret Stark has been a forensic physician since 1989, mainly working with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), also in Surrey, Sussex, and with British Transport Police. She was the first Medical Director of the Forensic Healthcare Service in London and the Director of the Clinical Forensic Medicine Unit for NSW Police, based in Sydney, from 2011 – 2014. Previously she was a principal in general practice and also worked in family planning.

She is the Immediate Past-President of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine (FFLM), Chair of the Forensic Science Sub-Committee, Lead Facilitator for the Faculty's course in General Forensic Medicine, and an educational advisor for the Faculty's examinations. She was the Founding Academic Dean for the FFLM. She was awarded the David Jenkins Professorship in Forensic and Legal Medicine in 2011/12 and was an Adjunct Professor at Sydney University from 2012-2015. She is an Honorary Professor of Teesside University. She also works as the Responsible Officer and Appraisal Lead for Care & Custody (Health) Ltd (part of the MITIE Group), a Deputy Crematorium Referee (Croydon), and an Expert Witness.



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Dr Helena Thornton

MB ChB. FFFLM, DRCOG. DMJ (Clin)

I qualified from Birmingham Medical School in 1978, and moved to Manchester in 1980, where I became a GP. I was a partner in a large family practice until 2017. I started working in Forensic Medicine in 1995 and have been at St Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre ever since.

I took the Diploma in Medical Jurisprudence in 1999 and was a Founder Member of the Faculty. I was an examiner for the DFCASA (Diploma in Forensic and Clinical aspects of sexual assault), run with the Society of Apothecaries, and then became an examiner for the Faculty exams in 2008. I was the Chief Examiner from 2013 to 2018 and am currently the Registrar of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine.

