RESOLUTION 2026-03

A RESOLUTION ALLOWING POLICE CHIEF HUGHES TO SIGN A MOU

WITH CRISIS SERVICES OF NORTH AL

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Trinity, Alabama that the Police Chief be and is hereby authorized to enter into an MOU with CrisisServices of North AL.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS 13th DAY OF APRIL, 2026.

Vaughn Goodwin

Mayor Vaughn Goodwin

Attest:

Ashley Patterson

Ashley Patterson, Town Clerk

Ashley C. Patterson
Notary Public, Alabama State at Large
My Commission Expires September 20, 2028

CRISIS SERVICES OF NORTH ALABAMA

Memorandum of Understanding:

Partnership Agreement for Community Collaborations

I. Introduction & Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a formal partnership dedicated to transforming our community's response to domestic violence and sexual assault. Our collective mission is to deliver a unified, unwavering message: intimate partner violence and sexual assault have no place in our community. Together, we commit to:

- **Ensuring Equitable Access:** Providing all survivors with streamlined access to essential services that prioritize their safety and dignity.
- **Upholding Absolute Confidentiality:** Recognizing that privacy is the cornerstone of victim safety.
- **Empowered Information Sharing:** Exchanging critical data only when it enhances service delivery and abuser accountability, and strictly through the lens of informed, victim-led consent.

II. Key Definitions

- **Intimate Partner Violence (IPV):** Any pattern of abuse or aggression occurring within an intimate relationship, regardless of whether the individuals are current or former spouses, dating partners, or cohabitants.
- **Sexual Assault:** Any nonconsensual sexual act as defined by Federal, State, or Tribal law, including instances where a survivor lacks the capacity to consent.

III. Primary Partner Agencies

- Crisis Services of North Alabama (CSNA)
- Decatur Police Department
- Hartselle Police Department
- Morgan County Sheriff's Department
- Falkville Police Department
- Priceville Police Department
- Trinity Police Department
- Morgan County Circuit Clerk

IV. Partner Roles and Responsibilities

The signatories of this MOU have established a multi-disciplinary partnership to ensure survivors of IPV and sexual assault have seamless access to services that prioritize their safety and protect their privacy. In every collaborative interaction, the primary determining factor for any action taken will be whether it enhances the victim's safety and privacy.

Crisis Services of North Alabama (CSNA)

Historical Context: CSNA maintains a long-standing partnership with law enforcement and the Morgan County Courts to provide a safety net of confidential services. Their team brings over 300 years of cumulative experience to the community. CSNA's IPV Program complies with standards established by the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs Administrative Code Chapter 305-4-4. Their Sexual Assault Program complies with standards established by the Alabama Coalition Against Rape.

- **24/7 Crisis Access:** Operates the **HELPline**, a 24-hour crisis line providing compassionate trauma response to victims of violence, emergency shelter access, and forensic exam coordination. It is accredited by the International Council of Helplines.
- **Information & Referral (2-1-1):** Serves as the local 2-1-1 provider, connecting vulnerable populations to a comprehensive database of public services 24/7.
- **Comprehensive Survivor Support:** Provides safety planning, emergency shelter, case management, and counseling and support groups.
- **Specialized Forensic Exams:** CSNA 's Forensic Nurse Examiners (FNE) are trained to provide forensic exams to victims of IPV, sexual assault, and elder abuse. Child physical and sexual abuse exams are also provided within the guidelines of the local Children's Advocacy Center MOU. CSNA uses protocols that were established by the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) and the FNE Program Director and Coordinator holds an IAFN SANE-A (Adults and Adolescent) and an IAFN SANE-P (Pediatrics) certification.
- **Advocacy & Navigation:** Offers personal and court advocacy to help survivors navigate the social service and legal systems.
- **Community Leadership:** Educates partners on emerging IPV/sexual assault research and works to resolve systemic barriers to victim resources.

Law Enforcement

Historical Context: Law enforcement and CSNA have collaborated since early the 1980's to ensure reporting victims receive immediate forensic and supportive referrals.

- **Service Referrals:** Refers the following to HELPline, CSNA 's 24-hour crisis line, at 256-716-1000:
    - IPV victims for supportive services
    - Victims of crime for emotional support
- **Forensic Coordination:** Contacts the CSNA FNE Program via their confidential line **(256-430-1407)** for the documentation of physical injuries, strangulations, and forensic evidence collection for adults, children, and the elderly.

    **The Forensic Nurse Examiner number is for law enforcement only and should not be given to the victim.*

The Circuit Clerk

Historical Context: For over 35 years, CSNA and the Circuit Clerk's office have maintained a dedicated partnership to support survivors of domestic violence. As legal protections have evolved, this collaboration has ensured that victims have expert guidance when navigating the judicial system. CSNA advocates are authorized to provide direct assistance with Protection From Abuse (PFA) filings and offer in-court support to ensure survivors are informed and empowered throughout the litigation process.

- **Judicial Navigation:** Refers IPV victims to the HELPline and the Morgan County Domestic Violence Victim Services Coordinator for assistance in filing **Protection From Abuse (PFA)** orders and understanding court processes.
- **Courtroom Advocacy:** Allows CSNA advocates into courtrooms, magistrates' offices, and quiet meeting spaces to provide direct support and emotional stability for victims.
- **Survivor-Centric Referrals:** Ensures victims of any crime are referred to CSNA for emotional support and comprehensive crisis services.

V. Commitment to Confidentiality

All partners acknowledge that CSNA maintains a rigorous confidentiality mandate. No personally identifying information (PII) will be shared without an informed, written, and time-limited release from the survivor, except in instances where state-mandated reporting for child abuse or neglect is triggered.

Agency: Priceville Police

Signature _____ Date: 03/18/2026

Print Name: Jeffrey J Arvin Title: Chief

Agency: Somerville P.D.

Signature _____ Date: 3/20/2026

Print Name: Levi George Title: Asst. Chief

Agency: Falkville P.D.

Signature _____ Date: 3.25.2026

Print Name: Chris Priest Title: Circuit Clerk.

Agency: Morgan Co. Circuit Clerk

Signature _____ Date: 3/25/2026

Print Name: Janet S. Gabel Title: Executive Director

Agency: Crisis Services of North AL

VI. Duration and Terms of Agreement

By signing the MOC, the parties agree to uphold the terms of this MOU. Any party may amend their roles and responsibilities of the MOU by written request. This MOU shall become effective upon signature by the representative and shall be reviewed and revised as needed

Signature _____ Date: 9 MAR 2026

Print Name: Torry D. Mack Title: Chief of Police

Agency: Decatur PD

Signature _____ Date: 3/16/2026

Print Name: Mary L. McDermond Title: Chief of Police

Agency: Hartselle P.D.

Signature Ron W. Puckett Date: 3/17/26

Print Name: Ron W. Puckett Title: Sheriff

Agency: Morgan Co. Sheriff

Signature _____ Date: 3-17-26

Print Name: Randy Hughes Title: Chief

Agency: Trinity P.D.

Signature _____ Date: 3/17/2026

Print Name: Jason Wigginton Title: Chief