Institute of Legal Medicine, University Hospital Hamburg-Eppendorf

Medical Competence Center for Victims of Violence (MCCVV)
Butenfeld 34
22529 Hamburg
Germany
http://www.rechtsmed-hh.de/

MCCVV serves close to 2 million citizens and provides a centralized resource for the securing of forensic evidence, the initiation of necessary medical and psycho-social treatment as well as the proper documentation of any injuries. The Center further functions as a platform from which referrals are made to various community resources. All of these services are free of charge, provided 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and available regardless if criminal charges have been filed.

Due to the fact that children often witness and/or become victims of domestic violence, the Center has recently expanded its clientele base to include children and is now serving all individuals regardless of age.

VPA focal person

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Dr. Seifert is a native of Zagreb, Croatia. After completing her medical studies, Dr. Seifert received her Doctorate of Medicine from the University of Bern, Switzerland in 1986. She practiced at the University's Radiology and Pathology Department and was employed at the Institute of Legal Medicine in Basel until 1990. Dr. Seifert is board-certified in forensic medicine and is regularly called upon as an expert witness. In addition, she has a number of publications. In 1990, she joined the Institute of Legal Medicine in Hamburg, Germany and has been heading the committee on domestic violence for the Hamburg Physician’s Association since 2004.

In 1998, Dr. Seifert was voted Chair of the Hamburg Initiative Against Aggressive Behaviour and Violence, a non-for-profit organization. In the same year, she established the Medical Competence Center for Victims of Violence (MCCVV) at the Institute of Legal Medicine to improve victim services. At the time, MCCVV was the first German organization of its kind to provide comprehensive victim services. Dr. Seifert's main interests are the improvement of medical care for victims of violence and the establishment of organizations similar to MCCVV around the country. She hopes to enable and ease this process by furnishing scientific data collected through MCCVV’s years of existence.