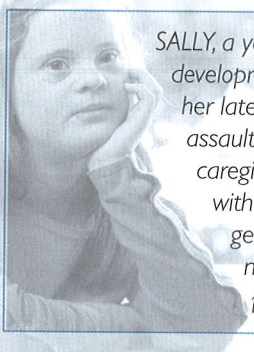


What Is GS-CAT?

GS-CAT stands for the **Get Safe – Consumer Advocacy Team** and serves as a critical link between persons with developmental disabilities and the criminal justice and social service agencies in their communities. Get Safe offers two levels of service to regional center consumers: GS-CAT Level 1 and GS-CAT Level 2.



SALLY, a young lady with a developmental disability in her late teens, was sexually assaulted by one of her caregivers. GS-CAT worked with Sally and her parents to get her the counseling she needed, as well as to help put her attacker in jail.

What Are the Differences Between GS-CAT Level 1 and GS-CAT Level 2 Services?

GS-CAT service levels are determined by risk.

- **GS-CAT Level 1** services are offered to regional center consumers who have lower risk levels for becoming victims or perpetrators of sexual assault or violence.
- **GS-CAT Level 2** services are offered to regional center consumers who have already been identified as being victims or perpetrators of sexual assault or violence or who have higher risk levels of being so.

In both cases, regional consumers will receive customized interventions designed to meet their specific needs.

GS-CAT

Get Safe – Consumer Advocacy Team

Established in 1986, GET SAFE has served more than 50,000 men, women, and children in Southern California, including more than 15,000 clients with developmental and physical disabilities. GET SAFE's mission is to protect the universal right of all persons to live safe and violence-free lives.



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Why Do Regional Center Consumers Need GS-CAT?

GS-CAT Case Managers are experienced advocates who work hand-in-hand with the Regional Center Service Coordinators to respond quickly to the immediate and specialized needs of Regional Center service recipients.



JIM, a young adult with a developmental disability, received a notice from the court that several warrants had been issued for his arrest. GS-CAT worked with Jim and his new caregiver to put together the documentation needed by the district attorney to prevent Jim from being arrested. GS-CAT also accompanied Jim to all of his court proceedings to help Jim understand what was going on and to ensure that he received the services to which he was entitled.

What Services Does GS-CAT Provide for Regional Center Consumers?

GS-CAT is a multi-disciplinary approach to providing assistance to people with developmental disabilities. GS-CAT services are designed to prevent service recipients from perpetrating crimes or becoming victims of crimes, as well as to respond to service recipients who perpetrate crimes or become victims of crimes.

GS-CAT services include:

Consumer Prevention Services

- Personal Safety Training (Level 1 and Level 2)
- Identification and Mitigation of High Risk Behavior (Level 2)
- Expectation Coaching for Parents and Caregivers (Level 1 and Level 2)

Consumer Response Services

- Assistance in Identifying and Reporting Crimes (Level 1 and Level 2)
- Facilitation of Communication Between Consumer and Investigating Agencies (Level 2)
- Accompaniment and Support During Court Proceedings (Level 2)
- Assistance in Obtaining Restraining Orders (Level 2)
- Referrals and Coordination of Counseling Services (Level 1 and Level 2)
- Professional Life Coaching for Consumers, Parents, and Caregivers (Level 1 and Level 2)

What Are the Qualifications of GS-CAT Case Managers?

GS-CAT Case Managers are experienced professionals with backgrounds and credentials in counseling, psychology, law enforcement, social services, and self-defense. Most GS-CAT Case Managers have bachelor's degrees, and several have graduate degrees.

Additionally, GS-CAT has partnered with Life-Changing Coaching, a professional life coaching firm, to provide essential coaching services to consumers, parents, and caregivers.



Employee Profile: SANDRA PEREZ, Masters Degree in Social Work, Bachelors Degree in Criminology, Law, & Society, State Certified Sexual Assault Counselor, State Certified Dispute Resolution Mediator, former Investigative Social Worker for Riverside County Child Protective Services.

How Do You Provide Your Service Recipients With Access to GS-CAT Services?

Because the GS-CAT program has already been approved for operation in California's Regional Center system, in order to provide your consumers with access, all you have to do is contact Get Safe to finalize the contract details.

GS-CAT Program ID: PM1085/055

How Long Is the Typical GS-CAT Case?

Our experience with regional center consumers over the past few years has shown us that the average GS-CAT Level 2 case last nine months and requires approximately 120 hours of casework, including administration. The average GS-CAT Level 1 case last three months and requires approximately 40 of casework, including administration. All cases have the capability of being extended beyond the initial contract amount and time should the need to provide services extend beyond the original contract parameters.

