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KCSARC statement on the Charles Momah Sex Abuse Case

The media has reported an alarming number of complaints of sexual assault against Dr. Charles Momah. As the primary sexual assault provider in King County, KCSARC has 27 years' experience working with victims and with the criminal justice system. We know that these crimes will have a life-long impact on the victims. If charges are filed by the King County Prosecutor's Office, this will be a complex and lengthy case. However, the victims' recovery will probably take much longer.

What we know:

We know that sex offenders often put themselves in positions of trust. They use that trust and their perceived authority to manipulate victims, and to ensure that the victims either don't tell or aren't believed if they do tell. As a medical doctor, Charles Momah was in a position that granted him automatic trust by his patients. As an obstetrician/gynecologist, Momah had access to women who were in a particularly vulnerable situation.

KCSARC believes the victims. And we know that no one deserves to be sexually abused and manipulated by another, especially when the abuser is someone of authority, in a position of trust. From what some victims have already told the media, we know that Dr. Momah abused women and then convinced them that no one would believe them, because of their life circumstances, and his role as a respected medical doctor.

Asked to comment on this case, Mary Ellen Stone, Executive Director of KCSARC, responded:

"For victims, it takes tremendous courage to come forward. The criminal justice system can be daunting and frightening. The public disclosure of personal, painful information can be traumatic.

It's important for our community to realize that if we are to hold sex offenders accountable for their crimes, we **MUST** make sure there is a system in place to support victims. The legal process can take years, but victims have to face the impacts of this crime every day. As a community, we must ensure justice for victims".