



Sexual Assault Awareness

PREA Information for the public from the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office

What is PREA?

PREA stands for Prison Rape Elimination Act, which was signed into law by President Bush on September 4, 2003. The regulatory standards to implement PREA went into effect on August 20, 2012.

What is the purpose of PREA?

PREA is intended to address the detection, prevention, reduction and prosecution of sexual harassment and sexual assault in all correctional facilities in the country.

What facilities must comply with PREA?

PREA applies to all confinement facilities in the country. This includes all prisons, jails, police lock-ups, juvenile facilities, immigration detention centers, court holding facilities, and community corrections facilities(home monitoring,

probation, parole, and half-way houses).

What constitutes sexual misconduct with offenders?

Sexual misconduct with offenders is generally defined as any behavior or act of a sexual nature by:

- Another inmate
- A contractor
- A food service employee
- A volunteer
- A medical or mental health staff member
- A member of the clergy
- Vendors
- Teachers
- Any law enforcement employees (sworn or civilian)

What should someone do if they suspect a sexual assault has occurred in a correctional facility?

Anyone who suspects or has knowledge of any sexual harassment or sexual misconduct in any juvenile or adult detention or correctional facility should report it to a staff member, volunteer, supervisor or administrator. Inmates may file grievances, tell a clergy member, medical or psychiatric staff, talk with a deputy or any other staff member with whom they feel comfortable and trust, or call a crisis hotline. Anyone who receives a report of sexual abuse in any confinement setting must document the incident and forward it for investigation and disposition. All reports will be investigated.

Reporting of Sexual Assault

Every report is taken seriously and will be investigated fully. The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office has a ZERO tolerance policy for any sexual assaults or harassment made or attempted by any inmate or staff member in the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office. Reports can be made anonymously, by friends or family members at any time. For the Main Adult Detention Facility you can call 707.565.1410 and ask to be transferred to a Sergeant. For the North County Detention Facility you can call 707.579.7701 and ask to be transferred to a Sergeant.

Reports may also be made through the Sheriff's Office Website at:

www.sonomasheriff.org

