



Prison Rape Elimination Act

The Department of Corrections takes every report of sexual misconduct seriously and will thoroughly, promptly, and objectively investigate all allegations that fall within the definitions of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).

We treat every investigation in a confidential and professional manner.

All staff, volunteers, and contractors receive training in the awareness and reporting of sexual misconduct.

All victims will be provided with medical and/or mental health care.

Staff sexual misconduct is against the law in Washington State.

Additional resource information:

RCW 9A.44.160
RCW 9A.44.170
RCW 72.09/225
www.nicic.org
www.prearesourcecenter.gov
www.nij.gov

The following DOC policies are available at www.doc.wa.gov:

490.800, PREA Prevention and Reporting
490.820, PREA Risk Assessments and Assignments
490.850, PREA Response
490.860, PREA Investigation

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
PO BOX 41100
TUMWATER, WA 98501

Phone: 360-725-8213
PREA HOTLINE: 1-800-586-9431



V/TTY/TDD
844-242-1201



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A RESOURCE FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS



What is PREA?

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) is federal law that went into effect in September of 2003 and prohibits sexual misconduct in correctional settings such as prisons, jails, lockups, juvenile facilities, and Immigration Services/ICE detention facilities. Sexual misconduct under this law includes:

- Offender-on-offender sexual assault and abuse
- Staff-on-offender sexual misconduct (sexual/inappropriate relationships with offenders).
- Offender-on-offender and staff-on-offender sexual harassment

The Department of Corrections (DOC) has zero tolerance for sexual misconduct of any kind and will impose discipline for such misconduct up to and including dismissal for staff and serious infractions for incarcerated individuals who victimize other incarcerated individuals. Incidents of sexual misconduct will also be referred to law enforcement when applicable. DOC policies regarding sexual misconduct apply to all individuals under the Department's jurisdiction, employees, contractors, and volunteers.

The DOC does not recognize consensual sexual contact between staff and incarcerated individuals. Consensual, non-coerced sexual activity between incarcerated individuals is prohibited by DOC rule but is not defined as a violation of PREA statutes.

How would I know if my family member or friend is being threatened and/or victimized?

A victim may:

- Have trouble sleeping
- Suffer a loss of appetite
- Experience stomachaches and/or headaches
- Display anger or rage
- Seem unusually anxious
- Express concern about their safety
- Seem unusually detached or withdrawn
- Have episodes of crying or shaking
- Not care about their personal hygiene

What can I do to help?

There are many ways to help someone who has been a victim of sexual misconduct including:

- Don't be judgmental
- Listen; be supportive and patient
- Encourage them to report the abuse

Having a family member or friend who has been the victim of sexual misconduct can be very upsetting. For this reason, it is also important to take of yourself.

Can I report sexual abuse/misconduct for my family member or friend?

If you have information regarding a DOC incarcerated individual who has been the victim of sexual misconduct while under DOC custody or community supervision, you may:

- Contact the facility Shift Commander if the individual is housed in a prison.
- Contact the Work Release oversight administrator or Work/Training Release administrator.
- Call the PREA Hotline at 1-800-586-9431
- Write a letter to:
PREA
PO Box 41131
Tumwater, WA 98504-1131
- Email the DOC PREA Coordinator at DOCPREA@doc1.wa.gov

When reporting, it is critical that you provide as many details as possible including:

- The name and location of the person(s) involved.
- The name or description of any witness(es).
- DOC number (if the assault/abuse was done by another incarcerated individual).
- A brief description of the incident including when/where it occurred and what happened.
- Names and phone numbers of anyone else who may have information about what happened.
- Your name and phone number (optional).

The DOC has a zero tolerance for all forms of retaliation against any person because of involvement in the reporting or investigation of a PREA claim.

THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS RECOGNIZES THE RIGHT OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS TO BE FREE FROM SEXUAL MISCONDUCT.