

Reporting PREA Allegations

If you are a victim of sexual misconduct or sexual harassment, or you suspect someone else has been sexually abused, sexually harassed or involved in sexual misconduct, **report it**.

- Verbally tell a staff member
- Call the **PREA Hotline at 0-800-586-9431**
- Submit a kite, kiosk message or grievance (PREA reports received via grievance will be removed from the grievance process and addressed as a PREA allegation.)
- Send legal mail addressed to the State Attorney General, law enforcement or the PREA Coordinator at Headquarters
- Submit a Report of Prison rape Elimination Act Allegation form (available in your living unit and/or the library)

When reporting, provide as much information as you can or are comfortable giving. You can also report anonymously (without giving your name).

Your family and/or friends can report PREA for you by calling the PREA Hotline, writing a letter to the PREA Coordinator or sending an email to:
DOCPREA@doc.wa.gov.

DOC is committed to investigating every allegation, getting services to every victim and punishing every perpetrator.

Victim Services

Medical and mental health services are available and will be provided at no cost regardless of whether you name the abuser or cooperate with an investigation. Send a Health Services kite if you wish to be seen.

Victim advocacy services are also available. Look for the poster in your unit for additional information or ask any staff member for a Victim Advocacy brochure.

Additional Resources

[RCW 9A.44.160](#)
[RCW 9A.44.170](#)
[RCW 72.09.225](#)

- [490.800](#) Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Prevention and Reporting
- [490.820](#) Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Risk Assessments and Assignments
- [490.850](#) Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Response
- [490.860](#) Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Investigation
- [490.700](#) Transgender, Intersex, and/or Gender Non-Conforming Housing and Supervision
- [610.025](#) Health Services Management of Offenders in Cases of Alleged Sexual Misconduct

PREA HOTLINE

0-800-586-9431



V/TTY/TDD
844-242-1201

Department of Corrections
P.O. Box 41100
Olympia, WA 98504-1100

400-BR017 (R. 10/2021)



PREA



Prison Rape Elimination Act

A Resource for Incarcerated Individuals

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM SEXUAL ABUSE, ASSAULT AND HARASSMENT

What is PREA?

The **Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)** is a federal law that went into effect in September of 2003. Prohibiting sexual misconduct in correctional settings such as prisons, jails, lock ups, juvenile facilities and Immigration Services/ICE detention facilities.

Sexual misconduct under this law includes: inmate-on-inmate sexual assault and abuse; staff-on-inmate sexual misconduct (sexual/inappropriate relationships with inmates); and, inmate-on-inmate and staff-on-inmate 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 individuals under DOC supervision who victimize other individuals under DOC supervision. Incidents of sexual misconduct will also be referred to law enforcement when applicable. DOC policies regarding sexual misconduct apply to all individuals under DOC supervision, both incarcerated and on community supervision. They also apply to employees, contractors, and volunteers.

Staff and individuals under DOC supervision have the right to be free from retaliation for reporting sexual misconduct. Retaliation may include threats, harassment, infractions, loss of privileges or asking others to intimidate the individual under DOC supervision.

Retaliation against any person because of his/her involvement in the reporting or investigation of a PREA allegation is prohibited and will be investigated.

Individuals under DOC supervision will be held accountable for making false PREA allegations.

Inmate-on-inmate sexual assault/abuse is any incident of a sexual nature between 2 or more individuals under DOC supervision, without the individual's consent or if the individual is unable to consent/refuse. Examples of a sexual assault include rape or someone forcing you to have sex with them or another person to repay a debt.

Examples of **staff sexual misconduct** include engaging in sexual intercourse with an individual under DOC supervision, allowing an individual under DOC supervision to engage in sexual intercourse with another staff, kissing an individual under DOC supervision, etc.

If you have been sexually assaulted, get to a safe place and **REPORT IT AS SOON AS YOU CAN!** It is important that you don't use the bathroom, brush your teeth, shower or change your clothes. Even if you want to immediately clean up after the assault, it is important to save the evidence. Remember, it is not your fault that you were sexually assaulted.

Sexual harassment includes repeated and unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by one individual under DOC supervision to another, or deliberate and repeated verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to an individual under DOC supervision by staff.

How to Prevent Sexual Assault

Anyone offering you favors, lending you things, or providing you with protection may be setting you up for an assault or targeting you as a potential victim. **DON'T DO IT!**

- Be aware of situations that make you feel uncomfortable. Trust your instincts. If it feels wrong, leave or call out for a staff member. It is your right to say "no," "stop it," or "don't touch me!"
- If you or someone else is being pressured for sex, immediately tell a staff member. You don't need to wait for a sexual assault to happen to ask for help.
- Be aware of areas where it may be difficult to be seen by staff or where you would have trouble getting help if needed.
- Stay out of other people's cell and keep them out of yours.
- Be alert—contraband such as drugs and alcohol will make it difficult for you to stay alert and make decisions.
- Do your own time. Get involved in programs and structured activities.

The DOC does not recognize consensual sexual contact between staff and individuals under DOC supervision.

Consensual, non-coerced sexual activity between individuals under DOC supervision is prohibited by DOC rule but is not defined as a violation of PREA policies.

