How to Report a Sexual Assault

If you are a victim of sexual misconduct or you suspect someone else has been sexually abused 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
- Send legal mail addressed to the State Attorney General, law enforcement or the PREA Coordinator at Headquarters

When reporting, provide as much information as you can or are comfortable giving. Remember, we cannot conduct an investigation if we don’t have enough information. Your family and/or friends can report an incident for you by using the PREA Hotline.

You may also report to an outside agency by completing a Report of Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Allegation form which is available in your living unit and/or the library. Place the completed form in an offender grievance box. The Grievance Coordinator will send the form to the Mailroom where it will be processed as outgoing mail and sent to the outside agency. Once received, the outside agency will forward the report to the DOC PREA Coordinator who will respond to the allegation per DOC 490.850.

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

VICTIM SERVICES
Medical/mental health and/or victim services are available and will be provided at no cost regardless of whether you name the abuser or cooperate with the investigation. Contact mental health or your counselor for additional information.

Additional resource information:

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>RCW 9A.44.160</td>
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<td>RCW 9A.44.170</td>
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<td>RCW 72.09/225</td>
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<tr>
<td>490.800</td>
<td>Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Prevention and Reporting</td>
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<td>490.820</td>
<td>Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Risk Assessments and Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>490.850</td>
<td>Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Response</td>
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<tr>
<td>490.860</td>
<td>Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Investigation</td>
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PREA HOTLINE
0-800-586-9431

V/TTY/TDD
844-242-1201

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

Revision Date: 7/10/15
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); and, 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 offenders who victimize other offenders. Incidents of sexual misconduct will also be referred to law enforcement when applicable. DOC policies regarding sexual misconduct apply to all offenders, both incarcerated and on community supervision. They also apply to employees, contractors, and volunteers.

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

Offenders will be held accountable for making false PREA allegations.

Offender-on-offender sexual assault/abuse is any incident of a sexual nature between 2 or more offenders, without an offender’s consent or when an offender is unable to consent/refuse. Sexual assault/abuse does not include kicking, grabbing, or punching genitals when the intent is to harm or debilitate rather than sexually exploit. Examples of a sexual assault includes rape, someone forcing you to have sex with them or another person to repay a debt, or a staff person offering you a privilege or a favor in exchange for sex.

If you have been sexually assaulted, get to a safe place and REPORT IT AS SOON AS YOU CAN! 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.

Staff sexual misconduct includes engaging in sexual intercourse with an offender.

Sexual harassment includes deliberate or repeated, unsolicited verbal statements or comments of a sexual nature directed to any individual, including demeaning references to gender or derogatory comments about body or clothing. It also includes profane or obscene language or gestures of a sexual nature.

DOC 490.800, Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Prevention and Reporting, includes an in-depth definition of sexual misconduct.

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 an 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 offenders.

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