

Prison Rape Elimination Act

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was passed in 2003 with unanimous support from both parties in Congress. The purpose of the act was to “provide for the analysis of the incidence and effects of prison rape in Federal, State, and local institutions and to provide information, resources, recommendations and funding to protect individuals from prison rape.” (Prison Rape Elimination Act, 2003). In addition to creating a mandate for significant research from the Bureau of Justice Statistics and through the National Institute of Justice, funding through the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the National Institute of Corrections supported major efforts on many state correctional, juvenile detention, community corrections, and jail systems.

The act also created the National Prison Rape Commission and charged it with developing draft standards for the elimination of prison rape. Those standards were published in 2009 and were turned over to the Department of Justice for review and passage as a final rule. The final rule became effective August 20, 2012.

In 2010, the Bureau of Justice Assistance funded the National PREA Resource Center to continue to provide federally funded training and technical assistance to states and localities, as well as to serve as a single stop resource for leading research and tools for those in the field working to come into compliance with the federal standards.

The Washington County Sheriff’s Office has zero tolerance with regard to sexual abuse and sexual harassment in this facility and will take appropriate affirmative measures to protect all inmates from sexual abuse and harassment and to promptly and thoroughly investigate all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment (28 CFR 115.11).

On January 13, 2022 Jail Commander Roger Heinen, Assistant Jail Administrator John Warneke, Operations Sergeant Jacqueline Dahms and Jail Programs Sergeant/PREA Coordinator David Stumpner reviewed all PREA allegations for 2021. All incidents were investigated properly as per PREA standards. As a group we discussed the following changes in practice.

- The 2022 inmate handbook will have the speed dial numbers section removed.
- The 2022 inmate handbook will have verbiage added about requesting a private and unrecorded area to make a phone call to a Sexual Violence Advocate.
- More emphasis will be placed on inmate’s privacy during PREA complaints to Washington County Jail Staff, Contractors and Volunteers. In 2022 Washington County Jail will train more Administrative and Criminal Investigators. All Washington County Jail Staff, Contractors and Volunteers will have Refresher PREA Training in the fall.

Complaints for Adult Facility 2021

Inmate of Inmate Complaints	Abusive Sexual Act	Sexual Harassment	Non-Consensual sex act
Unfounded Allegations:	0	1	0
Unsubstantiated Allegations:	0	2	0
Substantiated Allegations:	0	0	0
Ongoing:	0	0	0

Staff on Inmate Complaints	Abusive Sexual Act	Sexual Harassment	Non-Consensual sex act
Unfounded Allegations:	0	1	3
Unsubstantiated Allegations:	0	1	0
Substantiated Allegations:	0	0	0
Ongoing:	0	1	0