

WHAT IS SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

Sexual violence is sexual contact with any person without his or her consent, or with a person who is unable to consent or refuse. Sexual violence can take place between prisoners, or against a prisoner by a staff member.

Non-Consensual Sexual Acts:

Contact between the penis and the vagina or the penis and the anus, including penetration, however slight, contact between the mouth and the penis, vagina or anus, or penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person by a hand, finger or other object.

Abusive Sexual Contact:

Intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh or buttocks of any person.

Sexual acts or contacts between you and any prisoner, even if you do not object, are always prohibited.

Sexual acts or contacts between you and any staff member, even if you do not object, are always prohibited and always illegal.

WHAT IS SEXUAL HARASSMENT?

Staff sexual harassment involves verbal statements or comments of a sexual nature to a prisoner by a staff member such as:

- Making derogatory comments about your body
- Making abusive, threatening profane or degrading sexual comments
- Conduct of a sexual nature
- Making off-color statements or jokes

WHAT IS OVERFAMILIARITY?

Overfamiliarity involves staff engaging in, or attempting to engage in, conduct likely to result in intimacy or a close personal relationship with you. The following behavior between staff and prisoners is prohibited:

- Exchanging personal letters or gifts
- Requesting or granting special favors
- Discussing personal matters, unless specifically related to your case
- Engaging in horseplay
- Flirting with each other
- Addressing each other by a first name or a nickname

ARE THERE LAWS AND POLICIES TO PROTECT ME? YES!

Prisoners who allegedly commit acts of sexual violence will be investigated by the MDOC and the Michigan State Police.

If the investigation proves a prisoner committed sexual violence against you, sanctions will be harsh and can include:

- Loss of Privileges
- Major Misconduct
- Segregation
- Increased security level
- Classification as a "sexual predator"
- Prosecution and additional prison time

Staff who allegedly engage in sexual violence with prisoners will be investigated by the MDOC and the Michigan State Police.

If the investigation proves sexual violence occurred, felony charges will be filed pursuant to Michigan Law, and employment terminated.

WHAT HELP IS AVAILABLE AND HOW DO I GET IT?

MENTAL HEALTH staff is willing and able to help. To take advantage of these services, you may:

- Write to the Psychological Services Unit (PSU) at your facility, or
- Ask any staff person to help you with a referral.

If you are a victim of sexual violence, you have a right to these services.

To get MEDICAL SERVICES you may:

- Write to Health Care at your facility, or
- Ask any staff person to help you with a referral.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES provided will include:

- Separation from the aggressor;
- Security Classification review for appropriate placement needs.

The physical and emotional effects of sexual violence can be devastating and long-lasting. Some of the effects may not be obvious right away, and staff members may not know you need help if you remain silent.

WHAT CAN I DO IF I AM A VICTIM OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

Immediately report it to staff so action can be taken.

Preserve any evidence. Do not shower, brush your teeth or wash your clothes or underwear. This could wash away hair or other body fluids, which are critical evidence. Also, save anything that touched the perpetrator (e.g., a condom, tissue or a towel) or anything that s/he left behind.

WHY SHOULD I REPORT SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

- To ensure that you are physically separated from the aggressor.
- The physical and emotional effects of sexual violence can be devastating and long-lasting. Some of the effects may not be obvious right away, and staff members may not know you need help if you don't report it.

Physically you could:

- Contract the HIV virus or another type of sexually transmitted disease
- Become pregnant, if female

Emotionally you could:

- Become depressed
- Have panic attacks
- Be unable to sleep
- Have fits of rage and anger
- Feel fear
- Feel pressured
- Feel helpless or powerless

If you experience these problems related to sexual violence, immediately ask for help.

HOW DO I AVOID SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

You may avoid sexual violence by keeping the following safety guidelines in mind:

- Be aware of situations that make you feel uncomfortable.
- Trust your instincts. If it feels wrong, LEAVE.
- Don't let your manners get in the way of keeping yourself safe. Don't be afraid to say "NO" or "STOP IT NOW."
- Be Alert! Do not use drugs or alcohol. These can weaken your ability to stay alert and make good judgments.
- Walk and stand with confidence. Many perpetrators of sexual violence choose victims who look like they won't fight back or are emotionally weak.

- Avoid talking about sex. This may be considered a come-on, or make others believe that you have an interest in a sexual relationship.
- Do not accept store items or gifts from others. Placing yourself in debt to others may lead to the expectation of repayment with sexual favors.
- Avoid secluded areas.
- If you fear for your safety or are being pressured for sex, report it to staff immediately.

DID YOU KNOW?

Rape and sexual assault happens to females and males of all ages.

- According to National Crime Victimization Surveys, approximately one out of every eight rape victims is male.
- Most males who assault men or women are married or report having girlfriends.
- Victims are not at fault for being raped.
- Normal, involuntary physiological reactions such as becoming sexually aroused or ejaculating may occur during sexual assaults. This does not mean you consented or that you were not raped.
- Sexual assault has nothing to do with the victim's present or future sexual orientation. Victims may be either heterosexual or homosexual.

REMEMBER

- Sexual violence is never o.k.
- If you are a victim, report it immediately.
- You can get help.
- All reported incidents will be investigated.
- False allegations can hurt you and the accused.

HOW TO AVOID SEXUAL VIOLENCE

in Prison



Michigan Department of Corrections
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The Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) is committed to ensuring a safe and humane environment for all prisoners. An important part of a safe and humane environment for prisoners includes being free from sexual violence. This guide explains some of your rights as a prisoner, and the safeguards that are in place to protect you.

"Sexual violence" is the term used in this guide to describe certain kinds of prohibited behavior. Sexual violence includes non-consensual sexual acts and abusive sexual contact between prisoners. Sexual violence also includes sexual harassment and sexual misconduct against a prisoner by staff.

The MDOC will not tolerate any form of sexual violence. The pages that follow will describe inappropriate behaviors and how you should deal with them.

It is important that both staff and prisoners do their part to reduce the harm that results from this kind of behavior.

The purpose of this guide is to ensure that you are aware of the safeguards that do exist.