



It is the policy of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to provide a safe, humane, and appropriately secure environment, free from the threat of sexual misconduct for all inmates by maintaining a program of prevention, detection, response, investigation, and tracking. The Department shall maintain a zero tolerance for sexual misconduct in its institutions and in any facilities with which it contracts for the confinement of inmates. Sexual misconduct among inmates and by staff towards inmates is strictly prohibited. All allegations of sexual misconduct and/or sexual harassment shall be administratively and/or criminally investigated.

**YOU HAVE THE RIGHT NOT TO BE SEXUALLY ABUSED OR HARASSED.**

Incidents or Suspicions of Sexual Abuse, Sexual Harassment and Retaliationx  
Can be reported to ANY STAFF Member:

- Verbally to ANY STAFF MEMBER
- In Writing to ANY STAFF MEMBER
- Operations Support Center (614) 995-3584
- Outside Agency Hot Line (614) 728-3155  
(No cost to call from inmate Phone)

Inmates shall be given the opportunity to remain anonymous upon request to the outside agency.

There will be **NO** retaliation for reporting incidents of sexual abuse or harassment.

Family and friends can report allegations of sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and retaliation on your behalf:

- By calling (614) 995-3584
- By emailing [DRC.ReportSexualMisconduct@odrc.state.oh.us](mailto:DRC.ReportSexualMisconduct@odrc.state.oh.us)

Within 7 days of your arrival or transfer to an institution you will watch an Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) education video. The video will inform you of ODRC's zero tolerance policy against sexual misconduct. The video is in English with a deaf interpreter. It also is closed caption with a Spanish outline at end of video. If you need additional assistance understanding anything in the PREA inmate education video or institution inmate handbook, see your unit staff.

## PREVENTION/DETECTION

All inmates shall be screened and assessed upon admission to the Department and for all subsequent intra-system transfers. All inmates shall be assessed for risk of sexual victimization or abusiveness within 72 hours of intake and upon transfer to another institution. These screenings shall be initiated in the PREA Risk Assessment System by medical personnel during intake medical assessments and shall be completed by unit management within the 72 hour period. No sooner than 15 days, but no later than 30 days from the inmate's arrival at any institution, the inmate shall be reassessed regarding their risk of victimization or abusiveness based upon any additional, relevant information received since that institution's intake screening of the inmate. Unit management shall complete the assessments. As a result of these screenings, inmates shall be assigned a PREA Classification.

The Unit Management Chief or their designees shall make appropriate housing assignments based upon PREA Classifications. The information shall be used to assist in housing, bed, work, education, and programming assignments. If it is learned that an inmate is subject to substantial risk of imminent sexual abuse, staff shall take immediate action to protect the inmate at risk of victimization.

Mental Health Services shall attempt to conduct an evaluation on all known inmate-on-inmate abusers within 60 calendar days of learning of such history and offer treatment when deemed appropriate.

Unless otherwise precluded by Federal, State, or local law, medical and mental health practitioners shall be required to report sexual abuse and to inform inmates of the practitioner's duty to report, and the limitations of confidentiality at the initiation of services.

**If an inmate has experienced prior sexual victimization, whether it occurred in an institutional setting or in the community, the inmate shall be offered a follow-up meeting with a medical or mental health practitioner with 14 days of the intake screening. This can be accomplished by the inmate forwarding a kite to the medical or mental health departments.**

**If an inmate has previously perpetrated sexual abuse, whether it occurred in an institutional setting or in the community, the inmate shall be offered a follow-up meeting with a mental health practitioner with 14 days of the intake screening. This can be accomplished by the inmate forwarding a kite to the mental health departments.**

## SELF-PROTECTION

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."

Many sexual abusers choose victims who look like they won't fight back or are emotionally weak. WALK AND STAND WITH CONFIDENCE.

Avoid talking about sex, and casual nudity. These things may be considered a come on, or make another inmate believe that you have an interest in a sexual relationship.

Placing yourself in debt to another inmate can lead to the expectation of repaying the debt with sexual favors. Do not accept commissary items or other gifts from other inmates.

Avoid secluded areas. Position yourself in plain view of staff members. If you are being pressured for sex, report it to a staff member IMMEDIATELY.

## **RESPONSE**

Upon report of an allegation of inmate sexual abuse, staff shall:

1. Separate alleged victim and abuser.
2. Take appropriate steps to preserve, protect and collect any evidence.

The institution will make available for the victim, a rape crisis center victim advocate if available, or a qualified institution victim support person.

## **TREATMENT**

### Medical Services Responsibilities

Follow appropriate protocol, assuring appropriate examination, documentation, transport to the local emergency department, testing for sexually transmitted diseases, counseling, prophylactic treatment, follow-up, and referral for mental health evaluation.

### Mental Health Responsibilities

Offenders referred to mental health by medical services following an allegation of sexual abuse shall be seen by an independently licensed mental health professional who shall complete further screenings or assessments consistent with Department policy.

The victim will be offered medical and mental health evaluations and treatment as appropriate. Treatment shall be provided to the victim at no charge.

The victim will be given access to victim advocates for emotional support, if needed, by providing them with mailing addresses and telephone numbers, including toll-free hotline numbers of local, State, or national victim advocacy or rape crisis organizations. This

information shall be provided to the unit staff for communication to the inmates. The telephone calls to outside support services are not confidential.

The institution shall protect all inmates and staff who report sexual misconduct or cooperate with sexual misconduct investigations from retaliation by other inmates or staff.

Emotional support services shall be offered to inmates or staff who fear retaliation for reporting sexual misconduct or for cooperating with investigations.

## **INVESTIGATIONS**

All reports of sexual misconduct and retaliation shall be investigated and the findings documented in writing.

No institution shall require an inmate who alleges sexual abuse to submit to a polygraph examination or other truth-telling device as a condition for proceeding with the investigation of such an allegation.

The institution investigator shall monitor all cases of retaliation.

A final decision on all allegations of sexual abuse shall be issued by the institution investigator within 90 calendar days of the initial filing.

If 90 calendar days is not sufficient to make an appropriate decision, the institution investigator may extend the decision up to 70 calendar days. The inmate shall be notified in writing of such extension and provide a date by which a decision will be made.

Following an investigation into an inmate's allegation that he or she suffered sexual abuse in an institution, the institution investigator shall inform the inmate as to whether the allegation has been determined to be substantiated, unsubstantiated, or unfounded.