

PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT (PREA)

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003 is a Federal law established to address the elimination and prevention of sexual assault and rape in correctional systems. PREA applies to all federal, State, and local prisons, jails, police lock-ups, private facilities, and community settings such as residential facilities.

Trempealeau County has a zero tolerance standard regarding sexual contact, rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment of offenders. We recognize the seriousness of such assaults, the impact this has on the victim, the correctional environment, the community and society. Trempealeau County Jail considers the detection, prevention, reduction and punishment of sexual assault and/or rape a priority and an integral component of operating a safe and secure jail.

The Trempealeau County Jail will respond to allegations of sexual assault, rape and/or sexual harassment and will be consistent with the following goals:

- Investigate & respond in a timely, humane and respectful manner;
- Maintain confidentiality of the investigation and sensitivity towards alleged victim(s);
- Provide the victim(s) with follow-up medical and mental health services, as appropriate;
- Provide protection from retaliation;
- Hold accountable those in violation of sexual assault and/or rape laws.

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TREMPEALEAU COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

PREVENTING SEXUAL ASSAULT AND HARASSMENT



Inmate Guide

Inmates are encouraged to notify an on-duty Correctional Officer at any time if he/she feels vulnerable to sexual abuse by other inmates or if they are likely to engage in sexual abusive behavior. In such cases, the Correctional Officer will inform the Jail Supervisor for further investigation.

REPORTING

Inmates may report any act of inmate-on-inmate sexual assault, rape, or sexual harassment in writing or verbally to the on-duty Correctional Officer. The Correctional Officer will take steps to separate the alleged victim(s) from the alleged perpetrator.

If the allegation involves an inmate and staff member (or volunteer, contracted employee, visitor, etc.) the allegation will be forwarded immediately to a Jail Supervisor.

The employee, volunteer, visitor, etc. who is alleged to be involved in the assault shall not have contact with the alleged victim(s) during the investigation.

Family members and other non-incarcerated individuals are able to report incidents or suspicions of sexual abuse to jail staff by calling the jail directly.

The Jail Administrator or designee will initiate an investigation and will insure protection of inmates and staff who report sexual abuse from retaliation.

MEDICAL CARE

Victims of sexual abuse shall have timely access to medical and/or mental health care following an incident of sexual abuse.



FALSE REPORTING

Inmates who file a false report of sexual abuse shall be held accountable and will be subject to disciplinary action.

SANCTIONS

Investigators use a preponderance of evidence to substantiate any sexual abuse allegation for disciplinary action.

Inmates found guilty of inmate-on-inmate sexual abuse and/or rape is subject to disciplinary sanction following a due process hearing. If the sexual assault is staff-on-inmate, as opposed to inmate-on-staff forcible assault, the inmate is not subject to disciplinary action.