



Sexual Assault in Jail . . . What You Need To Know About PREA

Sexual Assault, sexual contact, and sexual misconduct, whether consensual or non-consensual, is strictly forbidden. Any sexual contact between inmates, staff, volunteers, visitors, or any other individual is a violation of the rules of this facility. The Lake County Sheriff's Office maintains a zero tolerance for Inmate-on-Inmate sexual assault, staff sexual misconduct and sexual harassment toward inmates or staff. Any person found violating this rule will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

If you or someone you know has been sexually assaulted during confinement, you are not alone. Sexual abuse and sexual misconduct unfortunately are alarmingly common behind bars. It is estimated that 1 out of every 5 male inmates has been sexually assaulted. Many female inmates have reported being pressured or forced to have sex with other inmates.

- Any inmate, staff or third party may report acts of sexual abuse or sexual harassment without retaliation to any inmate, employee, and contract employee or volunteer using available methods of communication, including but not limited to: verbal reports, Inmate Request Forms, third party reporting, anonymously, and or sick call. Staff shall immediately document any verbal reports.

Facts:

- Many survivors of prisoner sexual assault blame themselves. Male inmates often feel stripped of their manhood. Gay inmates often blame their sexual orientation for the assault.
- Many inmates consent to sex because they have been pressured, coerced, or feel they have no choice; or they do so to avoid violence. This is still sexual abuse.

If you are a victim of sexual assault, it can be a traumatic experience. Some say they have experienced:

- Powerlessness
- Blame
- Sadness
- Fear
- Shame
- Rage / Anger

Safety Guidelines To Keep In Mind

- **Trust Your Instincts.** If you are in a situation that feels uncomfortable, or if it feels wrong, LEAVE.
- **Body Language.** You are judged on your body within seconds of people seeing you. Walk with your head up, have good posture, and display body language that tells people you are in control and not easily controlled by others.
- **Don't Ask Other Inmates For Things.** When you ask for things that other inmates can get (*such as Commissary items, Phone Calls, etc*) they may want favors in return. If you are in debt to another inmate it can lead to an expectation of sexual favors in return.
- **Avoid High Risk Places.** In every jail there are blind spots where officers may not be able to see you easily. Always stay in places where officers can see you, and avoid blind spots.

If You Are Ever Assaulted

- **Go To A Safe Place.** Two examples: Locking yourself in your room and calling the tower officer on the intercom system, or going to the entrance door and calling on the intercom located there
- **Report The Attack Immediately to any Staff Member.** The longer you wait the more difficult it is to obtain evidence necessary for criminal or administrative investigation.
- **Do Not Shower, Brush Your Teeth, Use The Restroom Or Change Clothes** because you may destroy critical evidence.

From The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

1. Avoid isolated areas when possible
2. When possible stay within eyesight of correctional staff
3. Be aware of your body language. Do not walk with your head down and eyes lowered
4. Do not accept food, cigarettes, clothing or other items from inmates. Do not go into debt in any manner. You may be expected to "repay" these debts with sex.
5. Beware of inmates that say they will protect you. Protection frequently has a cost also.
6. Do not give out information about your family, friends or financial status.
7. Do not purchase large amounts of commissary or otherwise give the impression of having money available to you.
8. Avoid talking about sex and avoid unnecessary and or casual nudity.

Thanks for the assistance of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Abuse, the Bureau of Justice Assistance, and State of Iowa Department of Corrections in the compiling of this information