

# PREA COURSE INSTRUCTIONS

## Your Role: Responding to Sexual Abuse

PREA has a new website.

IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS LOGGING ON PLEASE USE THEIR 24 HR 7 DAYS A WEEK TECHNICAL SUPPORT. THEY ARE GREAT!!!

*Tell them that you are doing the **Your Role: Responding to Sexual Abuse** for the Lake County Sheriff's Department.*

The instructions are much simpler than before.

USE THIS LINK: Go to <https://nicic.gov/>

Once on the home page, click on the PREA course in the lower left corner.

If you haven't done so already, Register.

Once you register, you become an existing user, even if you have not started the course.

For the AGENCY / ORGANIZATION use LAKE COUNTY ADULT CORRECTIONS

Follow the online instructions and when all the modules have been completed, you will be able to take the final exam and print your certificate.

Study notes are on the next pages.

## Study Guide for "Your Role Responding to Sexual Abuse" On-line Course

Rape and sexual abuse have been consistent problems in both male and female prisons and jails in America for some time. The PREA Law of 2003 requires that prisons & jails ensure the safety of prisoners in their custody. Furthermore, **the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution prohibits cruel and unusual punishment as it relates to sexual abuse** therefore we must properly report & investigate all allegations of sexual abuse in prisons and jails with the goal of eliminating it from these institutions.

**PREA covers inmates in juvenile, immigration, military and federal correctional facilities as well as detainees awaiting trial in jails.** It does **not** apply to persons on parole, children of inmates, nursing homes, day care or hospice.

**PREA was signed into law** by President George Bush in 2003. **Goals of PREA include** enforcing a zero tolerance for Sexual Assault and collecting data on incidents.

**Sexual activity in correctional facilities occurs along** a continuum of increasing levels of coercion...an inmate is forced into a sexual act, sometimes for procreation. Sexual activity in prisons is **not done** to impress staff. **Sexual assaults in these facilities is related** to increased aggression toward staff and other inmates and increased presence of weapons among prisoners.

**PREA applies** to all correctional staff: Custody and Non-custody personnel, contractors and volunteers.

**Research shows** that sexually assaulted inmates become a greater risk after release for committing new offenses, have difficulty securing housing, maintaining work, and struggle with depression.

**PREA requires those working in correctional settings** receive additional training and requires mandatory reporting and increased accountability for failing to prevent, detect, or respond to incidents of sexual assault. **In addition to PREA**

law, you should also be familiar with your state law, as well as facility & agency policies.

**The primary barrier to inmates reporting** sexual abuse is fear of being considered “a snitch”...one who tells on others. **A victim may also be concerned about** sexually transmitted disease, illness, pregnancy, fear of not being taken seriously, retaliation from inmates or staff. He would **not** be concerned about being labeled a “perpetrator.”

**Common characteristics of male** sexual assault victims are: non-violent and first-time offenders and small in stature with possible feminine mannerisms.

**“Hooking up” or “protective pairing”** refers to an inmate pairing off with a bigger or more senior inmate for protection from sexual assault.

**If a female prisoner says she is “gay for the stay”** she is saying that she may develop a close relationship with another female inmate that might include a sexual component. **In a “prison family” situation in a female facility, the “child”** is most often a younger inmate who needs protection and caring.

**Predominant dynamics among incarcerated females:** Creation of a “prison family”, close friendships and one-on-one relationships.

**In male facilities common sexual abuse dynamics include:** Hooking up, feeling disempowered & trying to gain control over another, a victim new to the facility and one who lacks familiarity with prison culture. It does not include the creation of a prison family or a perpetrator who is young. **The term “punk” refers to** inmate lowest in prison caste system and one subject to repeated sexual assault or sexual slavery.

**When an inmate reports a sexual assault, you can tell him:** You’ll report the assault on a “need to know basis” & that an investigator will come to interview those involved. Do not tell him that the perpetrator will be punished.

**To establish rapport with a victim you should:** Affirm that you take the situation seriously; Stay calm and professional. **Non-verbal responses you should avoid:** shift in your seat, fold your arms or stand over the person.

**As initial responder, you should not** ask the victim to recount the entire incident in detail but should ask the location of the attack and who was involved.

**After being the initial responder to an incident, you should** be prepared to give testimony about your involvement and interview with the investigator but not discuss the incident with other colleagues at break or spouse at home. **You could be overstepping your role as initial responder:** If you collect evidence & interview additional witness.

**Best practices for communicating with the victim include:** Letting the victim know that you'll do everything you can to help; acknowledging the victim's trauma; Using language that is professional and focused. But **not** correcting the victim's language or telling the victim you understand exactly how he feels.

**When documenting the incident, you should not:** Include your thoughts and ideas about what most likely happened. **If you are an officer, stabilizing the scene means:** Controlling inmate movement, immediately notifying a supervisor, and locking up the crime scene. **In securing a crime scene,** medical experts consider a scene to be "recent" for up to 72 hours.

**Goals of an investigation of a sexual assault incident would be to:** Identify and preserve both crime scene & evidence and determine the truth. **The Investigation process generally includes:** Interviewing witnesses, forensic evaluation and assembling resources but not making sure everyone has a lawyer or segregating everyone involved.

**Correctional staff might engage in sexual misconduct** for many reasons some of which include: Need to exploit their power, falling in love with inmate, feeling isolated from peers and identifying more with inmates, etc.

**A sexual assault crime scene includes:** both victim's and perpetrator's bodies, and the clothing of each as well as any bedding or personal objects in the area.

**It is important to remember:** Every assault is unique, any inmate can be a victim, the situation may not be consistent with your assumptions. **Also, if you respond inappropriately to an incident of sexual abuse:** You contribute to an unsafe

environment, you could lose your job or the ability to enter the jail facility, and the facility could be liable for your actions.

## Notes

### INVESTIGATION

- Who is involved
- What took place
- Where did it take place
- Why did it happen

Core elements of an investigation include

- Securing the scene
- Initial interviews
- Forensic Evaluation
- Processing of the scene
- Interviewing of witnesses
- Secure all evidence
- Follow up
- Assemble Resources

Many sexual assaults are because of the disempowerment of inmates wanting to show their dominance

The perpetrators of Male on Male sexual assaults have these common characteristics:

- Violent Convictions
- Long Sentences
- Large in stature
- Confident
- Gang Related
- Have significant stature in jail/prison

Perpetrators are called "Pitchers"

Victims are called "Catchers" and once violated they are referred to as "Punks" that can be passed around to other perpetrators.

Victims of Male on Male sexual assaults have these common characteristics:

- Non-Violent convictions
- 1<sup>st</sup> time offenders
- Unfamiliar with the prison culture
- Young
- Small in stature

- Not street wise
- Can have mental challenges

Reasons that persons engage in sexual activity in prison/jail include:

- Pleasure
- Love
- Expression of self
- Thrill of Breaking the rules
- Social Dominance / Control
- Procreation
- Forced

Three Dynamics of Incarcerated Women's Relationships

- Prison Family
- One on One Relationships
- Friendships with Deep attachment
  - This is the most confusing because it often is not Sexual in nature

Dynamics of Staff who engage in sex with inmates

- Need to exploit
- Fall in love
- Isolated from peers
- Protecting and Sympathetic
- Too Much Stress

Dynamics of Inmates who engage in Sex:

- Procreation
- Love
- Favor
- Get back at the Administration
- Get Staff in trouble

Common Barriers to Reporting Sexual Assaults:

- Being called a snitch
- Fear of retaliation
- Code of Silence