
Prison Rape Elimination Act

409.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance for compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA) and the implementing regulation that establishes standards (PREA Rule) to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment in Humboldt County Probation Department (HCPD) facilities (28 CFR 115.5 et seq.).

409.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Confined individual - A resident of a community confinement facility, or a detainee in a lockup, owned or operated by the HCPD (28 CFR 115.5).

Sexual abuse - Any of the following acts if the confined individual does not consent, is coerced into such act by overt or implied threats of violence, or is unable to consent or refuse:

- (a) Contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, including penetration, however slight
- (b) Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva, or anus
- (c) Penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person, however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or other instrument
- (d) Any other intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or the buttocks of another person, excluding contact incidental to a physical altercation (28 CFR 115.6)

Sexual abuse also includes abuse by a member of the Department or a contractor, with or without consent of the confined individual, as follows:

- Contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, including penetration, however slight
- Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva, or anus
- Contact between the mouth and any body part where the department member or contractor has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire
- Penetration of the anal or genital opening, however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or other instrument, that is unrelated to official duties, or where the department member or contractor has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire
- Any other intentional contact, either directly or through the clothing, of or with the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or the buttocks, that is unrelated to official duties, or where the member or contractor has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire
- Any attempt, threat, or request by the department member or contractor to engage in the activities described above

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- Any display by the department member's or contractor's uncovered genitalia, buttocks, or breast in the presence of a confined individual
- Voyeurism by the department member or contractor

Sexual harassment - Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances; requests for sexual favors; verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by one confined individual that are directed toward another; repeated verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to a confined individual by a member of the Department or contractor, including demeaning references to gender, sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing, or obscene language or gestures (28 CFR 115.6).

409.2 POLICY

The HCPD has zero tolerance with regard to sexual abuse and sexual harassment in its facilities. This department will take appropriate affirmative measures to protect all confined individuals from sexual abuse and harassment, or retaliation against any person who reports sexual abuse or sexual harassment, or who cooperates with a sexual abuse or sexual harassment investigation, and will promptly, thoroughly, and objectively investigate all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment (28 CFR 115.111; 28 CFR 115.211).

409.3 PREA COORDINATOR

The Chief Probation Officer shall delegate certain responsibilities to a PREA coordinator. The coordinator shall be an upper-level manager. The coordinator must have sufficient time and authority to develop, implement, and oversee department efforts to comply with PREA standards (28 CFR 115.111; 28 CFR 115.211).

The responsibilities of the PREA coordinator shall include developing and maintaining standards and procedures to comply with the PREA Rule.

409.3.1 CONTRACTS WITH OUTSIDE AGENCIES

The PREA coordinator shall ensure that any contract for the confinement or detention of confined individuals includes the requirement to adopt and comply with applicable provisions in PREA and the implementing regulations, including the obligation to provide incident-based and aggregated data, as required in 28 CFR 115.287 (28 CFR 115.212).

The PREA coordinator shall implement agreements and/or memorandums of understanding for any outside investigation agencies responsible for sexual abuse investigations that include compliance with the appropriate protocol, appropriately trained investigators, evidence collection practices, forensic medical examination requirements, and an agreement to keep the HCPD apprised of the progress of sexual abuse investigations (28 CFR 115.221; 28 CFR 115.271).

409.4 PERSONNEL ISSUES

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409.4.1 DISQUALIFICATION DECISIONS

Every person who may have confined individual contact as a member or contractor shall, prior to service, undergo a thorough background investigation to verify personal integrity and high ethical standards, and to identify any past behavior that may be indicative of the candidate's unsuitability to perform duties relevant to the operation of the HCPD.

The HCPD shall not hire, promote, assign, or transfer any member or contractor to a position that may allow contact with confined individuals if the member has (28 CFR 115.117; 28 CFR 115.217):

- (a) Engaged in sexual abuse in a prison, jail, lockup, community confinement facility, juvenile facility, or other institution as defined in 42 USC § 1997.
- (b) Been convicted of engaging in or attempting to engage in sexual activity that was facilitated by force, or overt or implied threats of force, or by coercion, or if the victim did not consent or was unable to consent or refuse.
- (c) Been civilly or administratively adjudicated to have engaged in the activity described in paragraph (b) of this subsection.

The department shall ask all candidates who may have contact with confined individuals to disclose any applicable misconduct during written applications or interviews. Material omissions regarding such misconduct, or the provision of materially false information, are grounds for termination.

409.4.2 PREA DISCLOSURE

Members have a continuing affirmative duty to notify the Chief Probation Officer in writing if they have (28 CFR 115.117; 28 CFR 115.217):

- (a) Engaged in sexual abuse in a prison, jail, lockup, community confinement facility, juvenile facility, or other institution as defined in 42 USC § 1997.
- (b) Been convicted for an offense involving engaging in or attempting to engage in sexual activity facilitated by force, by overt or implied threats of force, or by coercion, or if the victim did not consent or was unable to consent or refuse.
- (c) Been the subject of any civil or administrative adjudication finding that the member engaged in sexual activity facilitated by force, by overt or implied threats of force, or by coercion, or if the victim did not consent or was unable to consent or refuse.

The department shall ask all employees who may have contact with confined individuals to disclose any applicable misconduct during written evaluations or reviews. Material omissions regarding such misconduct, or the provision of materially false information, are grounds for termination.

409.4.3 PRESERVATION OF ABILITY TO PROTECT PROBATIONERS

The Department shall not enter into or renew any memorandum of understanding, collective bargaining agreement, or other agreement that limits the department's ability to remove alleged

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staff sexual abusers from contact with any probationer pending the outcome of an investigation or of a determination of whether and to what extent discipline is warranted (28 CFR 115.266).