

Prison Rape Elimination Act



The [Prison Rape Elimination Act](#) (PREA), a federal law enacted in 2003, was created to eliminate sexual abuse in confinement. In addition to providing federal funding for research, programs, training, and technical assistance to address the issue, the legislation mandated the development of national standards. The National Prison Rape Elimination Commission developed recommended national standards for reducing prison rape.

In order to promote a safe and humane setting for the confinement of pre-trial detainees as well as convicted offenders, the Washington County Detention Center maintains a “zero tolerance policy” regarding the sexual abuse of inmates, staff-on-inmate sexual misconduct, and inmate-on-inmate sexual misconduct. The WCDC maintains a program of prevention, detection, response, investigation and tracking. Sexual assault among inmates and staff sexual misconduct towards inmates is strictly prohibited and subject to administrative and criminal disciplinary sanctions. All allegations, regardless of source will be investigated. Staff-on-inmate sexual misconduct will be governed by the TCA CODE 39-16-408, which includes contract and volunteer personnel. The appropriate sections of the TCA Code will govern inmate-on-inmate sexual abuse based upon the advice of the District Attorney’s Office and the investigating police authority.

Sexual misconduct is illegal and **will not be tolerated** in any manner at the Washington County Detention Center. Sexual misconduct includes: *inmate-on-inmate* sexual abuse, assault, or consensual sexual activity, and *staff-on-inmate* sexual abuse, assault or consensual sexual activity. Sexual misconduct also includes any solicitation of sexual activity. All allegations are fully investigated and substantiated incidents are reported to the WCSOs CID Division and referral for prosecution if warranted.

Sexual abuse can be reported to ANY staff member at any time, either verbally or in writing. The staff will take actions to protect inmates from the assailant and refer them to medical for further treatment and counseling.

The following resources are available for reporting and/or counseling for victims of sexual abuse:

- Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN): **1-800-656-4673**

If you wish to report information that an inmate at the Washington County Detention Center has been the victim of sexual abuse by another inmate, or have information about employee sexual misconduct with regard to an inmate, please contact one of the following, either in writing or by phone:

Email: wcsso@wcsso.net

PREA Coordinator Phone: (423)753-1701

Contact in Writing: 114 West Jackson Blvd

Jonesborough, TN 37659

OR:

District Attorney Generals Office

P.O. Box 38

Jonesborough, TN 37659

(423)753-5020

Investigations are given one of three designations:

Substantiated – An allegation investigated and determined to have occurred

Unfounded - An allegation investigated and determined not to have occurred

Unsubstantiated - An allegation that was investigated and evidence was insufficient to make a determination of substantiated or unfounded