Implementing The Prison Rape Elimination Act: A Toolkit for Juvenile Agencies and Facilities

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Introduction

Welcome to *Implementing the Prison Rape Elimination Act: A Toolkit for Juvenile Agencies and Facilities* (the Toolkit)! The goal of this Toolkit is to provide juvenile agencies and facilities of all sizes, political divisions, and geographic locations with a step-by-step guide for preventing, detecting, and eliminating sexual abuse of residents[1] in their custody – and for responding effectively to abuse when it does occur. Prison rape includes all forms of resident sexual abuse within any correctional facility, including state and federal prisons, county and municipal jails, police lock-ups, holding facilities, resident transportation vehicles, juvenile facilities, and community corrections facilities.

The topic of sexual abuse of inmates is important and was acknowledged by the United States Congress in 2003 when it unanimously passed The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). PREA initiated the development of a set of National Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Eliminate Prison Rape, which will be discussed in detail throughout the Toolkit.

The Toolkit includes:

Introductory information:

- An historical perspective of PREA
- General information about the PREA law
- A discussion of Federal partners and their roles
- A review of the work of the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission
- A discussion of the current state of the PREA Standards
- An overview of the role of the Review Panel on Prison Rape
- A description of the role of the National PREA Resource Center

A Self-Evaluation Checklist and supporting forms to provide a step-by-step process for juvenile facilities to review and assess policies, procedures and practices in light of the PREA Standards and accepted best practices.

Resources to assist in PREA-readiness, including:

- Websites
- Policy Development Guides
- Important research, articles and reports
- Links to ready-to-use training materials – curriculum, lesson plans, interactive exercises

[1] The term "resident" is used throughout the Toolkit and is used to denote any person confined in a juvenile facility.

A Word on Policy and Procedure Development

The Toolkit will provide the reader with policy considerations and suggestions. It is strongly recommended that agencies NOT merely copy policies of other agencies, but rather analyze their own agency/facility's operations as new or revised policies to address PREA are developed. States have different laws[2] that will affect development of policy and procedures; facilities have unique designs, staffing, and budget issues influence procedures. Agencies are encouraged to use the Policy Guide and Self-Evaluation Checklists to develop the most appropriate and effective policies and procedures for their facilities.

[2] For a listing of these laws, see *The Project on Addressing Prison Rape—Fifty State Survey of Sexual Assault Laws* (http://www.wcl.american.edu/endsilence/statesurveys.cfm)