

PREVENTING SEXUAL ABUSE

Youth Orientation Packet

Use the MDHHS-5605, Juvenile Justice Residential Youth Orientation Checklist, to obtain a youth's signature acknowledging that the youth received and understood the PREA orientation information in this packet.



THIS PART OF YOUR ORIENTATION IS ABOUT PREVENTING SEXUAL ABUSE AS REQUIRED BY THE PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT (PREA). THIS FACILITY WILL **NOT** TOLERATE SEXUAL ABUSE, ATTEMPTED SEXUAL ABUSE, OR SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF ITS RESIDENTS.

Sexual activity of any type is prohibited at all residential facilities in the State of Michigan. Staff, volunteers, and contractors that work with youth at residential facilities must also abide by the same laws and restrictions and will be held fully accountable for any violations of policy and state law.

THE STATE OF MICHIGAN HAS A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY FOR SEXUAL MISCONDUCT OF ANY TYPE.

Zero tolerance means that sexual acting out, sexual assault, and sexual activity of any type is not allowed and will not be tolerated. Staff at all residential facilities will supervise youth vigilantly to prevent sexual assault. Any occurrence of sexual assault or attempted sexual assault will be reported, investigated, and the perpetrator held fully accountable. It is our responsibility to safeguard the security of all youth and staff.

Our staff is responsible for providing you with a safe and secure environment; this includes protection from sexual abuse. However, if you believe you have been a victim of sexual abuse, it is your responsibility to not only protect yourself, but also others by immediately reporting the incident.

WHAT IS PREA?

PREA is the abbreviation for the federal law that was written to protect you against sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

It stands for the Prison Rape Elimination Act. PREA is pronounced "Pree-Uh."

All residential facilities must comply with PREA, which means you and all other youth in custody have a right to be safe from sexual abuse. This facility does not allow any form of sexual activities between youth and staff,

contractors, volunteers and/or interns. Sexually abusive behaviors break rules and can be criminal acts and will be reported, investigated, and the perpetrator will be held accountable.

SEXUALLY ABUSIVE TERMS AND BEHAVIORS

This facility's PREA policy means that **all** sexual behaviors are prohibited while you are placed at this facility.

What is Sexual Harassment?

- ✓ Repeated and unwelcome comments or gestures of a sexual nature, including demeaning references to gender, sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing, or obscene language or gestures.
- ✓ Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances; requests for sexual favors; or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature.

What is Sexual Abuse?

- ✓ Forced or coerced sexual intercourse or sexual contact when the victim does not consent or is unable to consent or refuse. This may include the use of fear or threat of physical violence, psychological intimidation, bullying, and physical force.
- ✓ Sexual abuse also can include incidents of penetration by a foreign object.

What is Staff Voyeurism?

- ✓ An invasion of privacy of resident by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer for reasons unrelated to official duties. This could include watching a youth use the toilet, shower, or change clothes. Requiring a youth to show his or her buttocks, genitals, or breasts, or taking pictures of a youth's naked body or toilet use are also examples of staff voyeurism.

SEXUAL IDENTITY



This facility is a safe zone for all youth. Lesbian, bi-sexual, gay, transgender and intersex youth will not be isolated, harassed or subjected to any form of abuse, including name-calling.

If there is any time during your placement at this facility that you believe you are being mistreated, please report it immediately to your counselor, the director, or a trusted adult, or by filing a grievance. This facility is committed to ensuring that all youth are always treated with dignity and respect while in our care.

HOW TO KEEP YOURSELF AND OTHERS SAFE

Remember to say “NO” to anyone who tries to pressure you to participate in any type of sexual activity. Protect yourself by immediately reporting any sexual abuse, sexual conduct or retaliation.

Keep yourself and others safe by:

- ✓ Following the rules of the program.
- ✓ Don't keep secrets—Talk about what is happening in your treatment group.
- ✓ Don't isolate with another youth—Keep all of your activities out in the open.
- ✓ Don't trade food or goods with other youths.
- ✓ Never accept a gift or promise from another youth in return for not telling on the youth or not bringing up group and youth issues.
- ✓ Always report and discuss issues with your staff and treatment group.
- ✓ Don't have romantic relationships with other youth—It is strictly prohibited.

THE IMPORTANCE OF REPORTING

If you, or someone you know, are experiencing sexual abuse or sexual harassment, we want to know. We want you to report right away!

Youth reporting will be fully protected from retaliation, including retaliation from staff if a staff is suspected of sexually inappropriate behavior or sexual assault. There are several ways you can report sexual abuse, both in person and confidentially.

Here is How to Report:



✓ **You can go to staff.**

Reporting can be done verbally or in writing. Youth are encouraged to report directly and immediately to staff so immediate steps may be taken to keep youth safe from sexual assault and/or investigate a report.



✓ **You can fill out a grievance form.**

Reports may also be made through the youth grievance system. These forms and locked boxes are located throughout the facility.



✓ **You can confidentially report sexual abuse to Children's Protective Services at 855-444-3911.**

If you wish to report outside of the facility, tell your staff. Staff will contact a supervisor or administrator to facilitate that. This phone call will be completely confidential.

Report Truthfully.

Knowingly making a false allegation against another person is a legal violation. This means that a youth that **intentionally** lies when accusing someone of sexual assault and/or related sexually inappropriate behavior will receive consequences that could include criminal charges.

THERE IS HELP FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

This facility has policies that require that a victim of sexual assault receive medical attention, counseling, is kept safe from further victimization, is protected from retaliation and is supported in helping to hold perpetrators accountable. PREA also states that you have the right to speak to someone outside of this facility, if an outside service is available, to help you heal from past sexual abuse, and/or to be with you during any medical examinations and investigative interviews as related to sexual victimization. If you request these services, a counselor or supervisor will contact an outside advocate for you if that service is available or will assign a qualified person from the facility to provide those services.

If a youth believes or suspects they have been victimized or is in danger of being victimized or believes that another youth has been victimized or is in danger of being victimized, it must be reported. Keeping secrets might prevent a victim or potential victim of sexual assault from getting the help that is needed.

If any of the information presented here is confusing, or if you have questions about something that has happened to you, ask a staff person you trust or confidentially call Children's Protective Services at 855-444-3911

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