

Richland County Sheriff's Office Corrections Center

Annual PREA Report

2018

The Richland County Sheriff's Office Corrections Center is moving forward, complying with the national standards of the Prison Rape Eliminations Act (PREA). We are committed to keeping those in our custody safe and free from harm. We have zero tolerance for sexual assault and harassment of those within our jurisdiction.

The Richland County Sheriff's Office Corrections Center has assigned senior administrative staff to oversee and monitor PREA activities. The PREA Coordinator has been appointed to lead our efforts to be compliant with PREA standards.

During this past year staff has implemented procedures bringing us closer to our goal of total compliance. Administration has delivered a clear message to staff, and those people incarcerated within our jurisdiction, that we support the movement to becoming PREA compliant. We have also made it clear that we will not tolerate any PREA violations.

The Richland County Sheriff's Office Corrections Center has set the ground work in place to contract with an independent PREA Auditor to have our facility inspected before August 20th, 2018, deadline as established by the United States Department of Justice.

It is our policy to thoroughly investigate all reports of sexual abuse or sexual harassment. An experienced Sheriff's Department investigator has been designated as the PREA investigator for the Corrections Center. Specific training for PREA investigative procedures has been identified and the assigned investigator will receive his training prior to the 2018 deadline for compliance.

Training needs have been identified for both our inmate population and our staff. Our programs director has been tasked with providing the follow up inmate training. Our Corrections Officers have been instructed in the methods established for PREA inquiries and documentation at the time of entry to our facility (booking). Continuing PREA education will be provided to staff before and after the 2018 deadline.

In compliance with PREA Standards, senior staff have reviewed data collected in reference to reported PREA violations in order to assess and improve our response to and prevention of these violations. We will be taking corrective actions on an ongoing basis when issues are identified. This annual report will continue as part of our Sheriff's Office year end report in our efforts to be compliant and transparent on this issue.

Please refer to our PREA policy for general definitions and practices.

The Richland County Sheriff's Office Corrections Center PREA Report			
Calendar Year	Substantiated*	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded
2016	0	0	0
2017	0	0	0
2018	Y-T-D	Y-T-D	Y-T-D

The following data represents all reported cases of sexual abuse by an inmate. There were no reported cases of sexual misconduct by a staff, volunteer or contractor.

*These incidents were substantiated, meaning that they were found to have occurred.

Corrective Actions:

Increasing levels of PREA practices were implemented over the previous three years. The PREA Policy will be enacted in 2018.

We have addressed the need for communication through the investigate process between PREA victims and the Sheriff's Office investigations division. We have identified a designated investigator to be the lead investigator for PREA violations.

We are in the process of becoming 100% PREA compliant.

If you or someone you know have experienced sexual assault in our facility, please report. You can contact the PREA Coordinator for the Richland County Corrections Center. You may remain anonymous if you wish.

We believe the PREA compliance will establish a more conducive environment to report violations within our facility. Staff training and education for those held in our custody will continue. Data collection and PREA monitoring will facilitate the identification of areas needing improvement and corrective action. We are committed to becoming compliant with the PREA standards and protecting those who are within our care from sexual abuse and harassment.

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