

ANNUAL PREA REPORT 2018

Rape and sexual activity seriously reduces the mission of the Sheriff Office's to prevent crime and provide quality criminal justice service. In accordance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003, the Jefferson County Jail has established a zero tolerance standard regarding the incidence of rape and sexual activity.

The Jefferson County Jail provides training on PREA and our zero-tolerance policy each year to all our staff. Additionally we train on procedures and review our Policies and Procedures annually. All volunteers, contractors, and clergy members also receive a modified training on their roles in reporting any PREA allegations given to them. Each person trained accepts their responsibility in reporting any allegations and the various ways they may do so, including anonymity of the victim. Each inmate is notified of their rights to be free from sexual assault/abuse/harassment upon being admitted to the jail as well as receiving an audio notice twice a month. There is also information posted in all public areas of the jail on various ways of how to report any incidents of PREA violation. Lt. Bush is the PREA Coordinator.

All PREA allegations are investigated thoroughly regardless of whether they are substantiated or unsubstantiated. In the calendar year of 2018 there were a total number of sexual harassment reports of six. Three of which were substantiated, two of which were unsubstantiated, and one unfounded. There were no substantiated sexual abuse reports. There was one unsubstantiated allegation of staff sexual misconduct in 2018. This information is tracked via the US Department of Justice's Survey of Sexual Victimization (form SSV-1).

Policies and procedures are reviewed and evaluated at least annually to determine effectiveness and modified accordingly. In the allegations cited above there was not any policy or procedure that was determined to need changes. In each of the substantiated allegations the perpetrators were separated or removed and given disciplinary sanctions. The offenders were reclassified and placed in a higher classification. Each alleged victim is also evaluated by medical staff at no charge. In the case of the staff sexual misconduct, the staff member (a non-deputy) resigned after the investigation. Deputy staffing was increased in 2018. The continued use of body cameras has assisted in the investigation and prevention of PREA incidents. Video monitoring from fixed cameras is also used in all areas of the jail that do not have a right to privacy (i.e. showers, toilets). Frequent walks through all the housing units are recorded every 30 minutes or less further aiding the prevention of incidents.

We continue to house inmates for other agencies and we strive to provide a safe, sanitary, and secure environment for all inmates, detainees, and staff members of the Jefferson County Jail. We take seriously our policy of a zero-tolerance standard toward rape and sexual activity or sexual harassment. Each inmate or detainee is assured at least one means of reporting any PREA allegations confidentially and free from retaliation.

Lt. Joshua Bush

(PREA Coordinator)