

In 2003 the federal government enacted the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). In May 2012, the US Department of Justice released its final rule in accordance with PREA. The purpose of this law is to reduce the number of sexual assault and sexual harassment in confinement settings by focusing on prevention, detection and response.

The Oregon Department of Corrections fully supports the guidelines set forth in this law and remains committed to a zero-tolerance policy for sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Sexual assault or harassment from other inmates or staff is never okay, and never your fault.

There are some key things you can do to protect yourself from being a victim.

- Avoid isolated or secluded areas
- Be aware of your body language
- Never share personal information
- Never borrow canteen items
- Never accept gifts from another inmate
- Be cautious of inmates offering to protect you
- Report all acts of violence against you

If you are the victim of a sexual assault or sexual harassment your best defense is to report the incident as quickly as possible. There are multiple ways to report, including reporting anonymously.

- In person to any staff
- Through an inmate communication
- Through the grievance system
- Call the Inspector General's Hotline (Pick up handset and dial "9")
- Write the Governor's Office (State Capitol, Room 160, 900 Court St., Salem, Oregon 97301)
- Friends or family can report on your behalf (877- 678-4222)

By reporting, you will receive treatment to deal with the consequences of being victimized and you will prevent the perpetrator from victimizing others. You can be assured that the information will be received in a confidential manner.

If you have been victimized, it is important to remember not to wash away the evidence.

- Don't shower
- Don't remove or wash your clothes
- Don't brush your teeth

The Department of Corrections rules prohibit any form of sexual activity, including sexual harassment. Beyond rules, forced or coerced sexual behavior is a criminal offense and the department will take every action possible to hold perpetrators accountable, including prosecution resulting in additional time in prison.

You need to be aware that it is against the law for staff to engage in any type of sexual activity with an inmate. By law, an incarcerated person is unable to legally consent to sexual activity of

any kind with a staff member. This type of activity is referred to as Staff Sexual Misconduct, and is punishable up to and including loss of employment, civil suit, or imprisonment. Any reports of such incidents will be investigated thoroughly by State Police, and the employee will be held accountable if found guilty.

However, it is also the Department's responsibility to protect staff from false allegations. Inmates who allege sexual misconduct by staff or other inmates, and whose allegations are proven by investigators to be false, or who through investigation have been determined to have engaged in sexual solicitation of staff or inmates, will be held accountable through all means available to the DOC. That said, if you make a report that is investigated, but cannot be proved, you will not be punished for making the report.