

# Prison Rape Elimination 2015 Act

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This report has been prepared in accordance with §115.87 in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training. In subsequent years, the information collected for this report will be used to identify problem areas and to take corrective action on an ongoing basis.

NNSO PREA  
Coordinator's  
Annual Report

Annual Report  
Prison Rape Elimination Act

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) is a federal law that prohibits sexual misconduct in correctional settings such as prisons, jails, lockups, juvenile facilities, and Immigration Services/ICE detention facilities. Sexual misconduct under this law includes:

- Offender–on–offender sexual assault and abuse
- Staff–on–offender sexual misconduct (sexual / inappropriate relationships with offenders)
- Offender–on–offender and staff–on–offender sexual harassment

The Newport News Sheriff's Office (NNSO) is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for staff and offenders. The NNSO has zero tolerance for sexual misconduct of any kind and will impose discipline for such misconduct, up to and including dismissal for staff and serious infractions for offenders who victimize other offenders. Incidents of sexual misconduct will be investigated and offenders will be prosecuted when applicable. The NNSO's policies regarding sexual misconduct apply to all offenders. They also apply to employees, contractors, and volunteers.

This report summarizes the extensive effort by the Newport News Sheriff's Office to achieve compliance with The Prison Rape Elimination Act.

## **New Construction**

In late 2015, Demolition began on the first floor of the city jail. New construction will provide a modern, Passive Booking area and temporary holding cells for newly arrested persons. PREA was considered during the planning and designing process. The floor plan was designed to eliminate blind spots that could isolate inmates and staff. Camera placement was considered for remote observing by master control. The booking area will be under direct supervision. A medical station will be included to conduct medical, mental health evaluations and PREA screenings. The common seating area will have audio and video equipment that will play inmate orientation videos which includes PREA content. Construction will be completed in the fall of 2016.

## **Training**

The months of November and December have been designated for PREA refresher training. Earlier in the year, the PREA Resource Center released a new training video on Cross-gender and Trans-gender searches. All security staff members viewed the video and associated training materials and policies in our on-line training program. Each staff member was required to take a test on the material. Only test scores of 100% were given a passing grade. Staff training also included: Review of the Zero Tolerance policy on sexual assault and sexual harassment. First responder duties, Reporting duties, Inmate's right to be free from sexual abuse and harassment, how to avoid inappropriate relationships with inmates, the dynamics of sexual abuse and harassment in confinement, the common reactions of victims, how to detect and respond to signs of threatened and actual sexual abuse, How to communicate effectively and professionally with inmates, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, or gender nonconforming inmates; and How to comply with relevant laws related to mandatory reporting of sexual abuse to outside authorities.

## Statistics

Allegation of Inmate-on-Inmate Non-Consensual Sexual Acts			
	2013	2014	2015
Substantiated	1	0	0
Unsubstantiated	0	0	0
Unfounded	2	1	0
Investigation Ongoing	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

Allegation of Inmate-on-Inmate Abusive Sexual Contacts			
	2013	2014	2015
Substantiated	0	0	0
Unsubstantiated	0	0	0
Unfounded	0	0	0
Investigation Ongoing	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Allegation of Staff Sexual Misconduct			
	2013	2014	2015
Substantiated	0	0	0
Unsubstantiated	0	0	0
Unfounded	0	*1	0
Investigation Ongoing	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

*\*Exonerated by video evidence*

Allegation of Staff Sexual Harassment			
	2013	2014	2015
Substantiated	0	0	0
Unsubstantiated	0	*1	0
Unfounded	1	0	0
Investigation Ongoing	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

*\*The staff member resigned prior to interview.  
Non criminal matter.*