



# Essex County Juvenile Detention Center

**P.R.E.A.**

**Prison Rape Elimination Act**

**Visitor's General Information Guide**

**2018**

*Putting Essex County First*



“Our primary concern at the Essex County Juvenile Detention Center is maintaining a safe environment for our staff and residents. We encourage you to consult this manual from time to time as a reminder of your responsibilities and to refresh your memory of our Zero-Tolerance Policy for sexual abuse and harassment.”

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.  
Essex County Executive  
and the Board of Chosen Freeholders



# *What is PREA?*

- In accordance with the ECJDC's Zero-Tolerance Policy for sexual abuse and sexual harassment, which is based on the Federal Prison Rape Elimination Act and its regulations, the ECJDC shall provide a safe, humane, and appropriately secure environment for all residents, which is free of sexual abuse and sexual harassment (sexual misconduct).
- Our goal is to maintain a program of prevention, detection, response, investigation, discipline and tracking of all incidences.
- The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) 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:
  - Resident-on-Resident sexual assault and abuse.
  - Staff-on-Resident sexual misconduct (sexual/inappropriate relationships with offenders).
  - Resident-on-Resident and Staff-on-Resident sexual harassment.
- *Sexual misconduct by residents and any sexual misconduct by staff toward residents is Strictly Prohibited. Offenders will be subject to discipline and possible criminal prosecution.*

# How do E.C.J.D.C. Residents Report Sexual Misconduct?

- Residents housed in the facility are urged to report allegations of rape, sexual contact or staff sexual misconduct to the toll-free number :

**New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual  
Assault (N.J.C.A.S.A.)**

**1 (800) 601-7200**

- *Residents can also report allegations by submitting a grievance form, telling a trusted staff member, or asking a family member or friend to call any of the hotline numbers posted throughout the facility.*

# What to do if someone you know at the ECJDC is being sexually victimized or harassed ?

- **The New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (N.J.C.A.S.A.)** *(posted on slide 4)* provides a confidential toll-free line to access support services if he or she, or someone he or she knows, has been the victim of sexual assault or sexual abuse at any time. This line provides access to community-based confidential support services and is not a reporting line.
- To learn more about how an advocate may assist, please visit the PREA RESOURCE CENTER website:  
[www.prearesourcecenter.org/](http://www.prearesourcecenter.org/)
- Please refer to the [Visitor's PREA Brochure](#) for additional information.

# How to report an allegation of Sexual Abuse (*External*)

- As a visitor to the ECJDC, if you witness or learn of sexual abuse or sexual harassment of a resident in custody or juvenile under ECJDC 's charge, you are mandated to report an allegation on behalf of a resident. Your report of a sexual allegation may be made anonymously.
- You may assist a resident in reporting sexual abuse or sexual harassment.
- You may report an allegation of staff neglect/violation of responsibilities that may have contributed to an incident of sexual abuse or sexual harassment.
- You may report an allegation by calling any Law Enforcement agency.

# *How To Report Sexual Misconduct?*

- Essex County Juvenile Detention Center Internal Affairs Unit conducts an internal investigation all resident-on-resident and staff-on-resident allegations of sexual abuse/misconduct.
- If you have information regarding a ECJDC resident who has been the victim of sexual misconduct while under ECJDC custody or community supervision, please call any of the following numbers:
- There are multiple agencies you can report sexual misconduct:

**NJ Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJCASA)**

**1 (800) 601-7200**

**Department of Child Protection & Permanency (DCP&P)**

**Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline**

**1-877-NJ ABUSE (652-2873) (24/7)**

**Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network  
(RAINN)**

**1-800-656-4673 (24/7)**

**Support for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender (GLBT)  
Youth GLBT National Youth Talk**

**1-800-246-7743**

**Monday-Friday, 4pm-12 am EST or Saturday, 12pm-5pm EST**

**English & Spanish speaking counselors are available upon request**

**24 hours a day 7 days a week**

# *How Does the Investigations Process Work?*

- *Essex County Juvenile Detention Center (ECJDC) has a Zero -Tolerance policy toward any form of sexual abuse or harassment in accordance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).*
- *All allegations naming as victims any offender under the jurisdiction of ECJDC are thoroughly investigated.*



# Administrative Investigations

- **ECJDC** conducts an administrative investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct, to include sexual harassment, promptly, thoroughly, and objectively. This includes all third-party and anonymous reports.
- **Internal Affairs Officers** who have received special training conduct these investigations as assigned by the **ECJDC Director**. Training includes interviewing sexual abuse victims, evidence preservation in confinement settings, and criteria required to substantiate a case for administrative action and prosecution referral. Investigators gather and preserve direct and circumstantial evidence, interview alleged victims, suspected perpetrators, and witnesses.
- **Internal Affairs** also reviews prior complaints and reports regarding alleged perpetrators and assesses witness credibility prior to making decisions regarding these investigations. The credibility of an alleged victim, suspect, or witness is not determined by the person's status as an offender or staff member. Administrative investigations will also include an effort to determine whether alleged staff actions or failures to act contributed to the abuse.
- **Only the ECJDC Internal Affairs Unit** can make an investigation finding determinations after a thorough review of all physical and testimonial evidence included in the written investigation report.

# Criminal Investigations

- When the quality of evidence appears to support criminal activity, the ECJDC Internal Affairs Unit will conduct compelled interviews only after consulting with:
  - *Law Enforcement and/or the*
  - *Prosecutor's Office*
  - *DCP&P Division of Child Protection & Permanency*
- All sexual abuse cases will be referred for third party investigation to the Essex County Prosecutor's office.
- Law Enforcement agencies will document their findings in a written report that contains a thorough description of physical, testimonial, and documentary evidence and attached copies of all documentary evidence where feasible.
- Law enforcement agencies will refer all applicable investigations to the Prosecutor's Office for review.

Persons who wish to make a report regarding sexual abuse or sexual harassment which is alleged to have occurred while a youth was placed at the Essex County Juvenile Detention Center should contact:

## Essex County Juvenile Detention Center

80 Duryea Street, Newark, NJ 07103

**(973) 497 4720 or (973) 497-4735**

- Dennis E. Hughes - Director Ext 2227 / 2228
- Gina Saunders - Superintendent Ext 2226
- Internal Affairs Unit Ext 2234 or 2254
- PREA Coordinator or Manager Ext: 2330 or 2340
- PREA Advisor Ext: 2341

**or**

- *The Resident's Social Worker at their individual telephone extension.*

# WEBSITES/RESEARCH/REFERENCES

- **American Correctional Association:** [www.aca.org](http://www.aca.org)
- **American Correctional Health Services Association:** [www.achsa.org](http://www.achsa.org)
- **American Jail Association:** [www.aja.org](http://www.aja.org)
- **Bureau of Justice Statistics:** [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs)
  
- **Federal Bureau of Prisons:** [www.bop.gov](http://www.bop.gov)
- **National Criminal Justice Reference Service:** [www.ncjrs.org](http://www.ncjrs.org)
- **National Institute of Corrections:** [www.nicic.org](http://www.nicic.org)
- **National Institute of Justice:** [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij)
  
- **National Juvenile Defender Center:** [www.njdc.info](http://www.njdc.info)
- **National Prison Rape Elimination Commission:** [www.nprec.us](http://www.nprec.us)
- **Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention:** [www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org](http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org)
- **Prisons Foundation:** [www.prisonsfoundation.org](http://www.prisonsfoundation.org)
  
- **Rape Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN):** [www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org)
- **The Sentencing Project:** [www.sentencingproject.org](http://www.sentencingproject.org)
- **Vera Institute of Justice:** [www.vera.org](http://www.vera.org)
- **United States Department of Justice:** [www.doj.gov](http://www.doj.gov)