

Red Flags

Addressing sexual abuse of residents is important both individually and within the facility. While you may not be in danger of committing such an offense, one of the residents may be. Therefore, it is very important to pay close attention to your colleagues' behavior as well as your own.

If you answer "YES" to one of the questions, you could be at risk for developing an inappropriate relationship with a resident

- Do you look forward to seeing a particular resident when you come to visit?
- Have you done anything with a resident you would not want your family or superiors to know about?
- Do you believe you can ask a resident to do personal favors for you?
- Have you ever received personal advice from a resident?
- Do you think you have the right to touch a resident wherever and whenever you want to?
- Do you think that residents are not allowed to say NO to you, no matter what you say?
- Have you ever allowed a resident to talk about sexual experiences or fantasies, or tell sexual jokes in your presence?

Remember

It's a problem for everyone when a staff member, volunteer, or contractor becomes involved in sexual misconduct and/or inappropriate relationships with a resident. By identifying red flags, you will be doing a personal check of your feelings and emotions while visiting the detention center.

A Duty To Report

As a valued associate of the Essex County Juvenile Detention Center, you have a duty to report incidences of sexual abuse and sexual harassment between residents. You have a duty to report incidences of sexual abuse and sexual harassment where a Detention officer, volunteer or contractor is sexually involved with or sexually harassing a resident.

Some Forms of Reporting Includes:

Telling Detention Staff or Superiors

NJ Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJ CASA)
1 (800) 601-7200

Department of Child Protection & Permanency (DCP&P)
CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT HOTLINE.
1 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 and Transgender (GLBT) GLBT National Youth Talk
1-800-246-7743
Monday-Friday, 4pm-12 am or Saturday, 12pm-5pm

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
1-800-273-8255 (24/7)

English & Spanish speaking counselors are available

Resources

- Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003/ U S Department of Justice
- National PREA Resource Center
- Essex County Juvenile Detention Zero Tolerance Policy



ESSEX COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER
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ESSEX COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER



P.R.E.A

Prison Rape Elimination Act

A Guide on Sexual Abuse Prevention & Response

For Volunteers/Mentors and Contractors

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

Putting Essex County First

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Essex County Juvenile Detention Center to protect the public while providing a safe, clean and well-managed environment for residents, employees and visitors.

These goals shall be attained through effective management of policy and procedure. It is also our mission to provide those incarcerated with education, behavior management and various activities and opportunities designed to improve residents' ability to successfully return to their perspective communities as productive members of society.

Objective

This pamphlet is written to educate you on the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA) and the Essex County Juvenile Detention Center's policy concerning sexual abuse of residents. It is also intended to provide information about maintaining professional boundaries with residents and your duty to report incidents of staff/resident sexual abuse or misconduct.

What Is PREA

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003 is a Federal Law established to address the elimination and prevention of sexual assault and rape in correctional systems. PREA applies to all Federal, State, and local prisons, jails, detention centers police lock ups, private facilities, and community settings, such as residential facilities. In response to PREA, the Essex County Juvenile Detention Center has committed to a standard of ***ZERO-TOLERANCE*** of sexual abuse of residents either by staff, other residents, volunteers/mentors and contractors.

Volunteers/mentors and staff must be aware that unprofessional relationships will not be tolerated and these relationships are criminal and may be prosecuted under state and federal statutes.

***THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS
CONSENSUAL SEX WITHIN THE
CONFINES OF THE
ESSEX COUNTY
JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER***

Undue Familiarity

All employees volunteers, and contractors of the Essex County Juvenile Detention Center should treat residents in a firm, fair and consistent manner, and refrain from inappropriate and improper contact with them. Whenever there is a reason to discuss a resident's problem with them, a professional attitude consistent with roles and responsibilities should be exercised. As an employee, volunteer or contractor, you should not:

- Borrow anything from a resident
- Lend anything to a resident
- Accept any gift or personal service from a resident, except as specified by law, regulations or directive
- Make gifts to or perform personal services for a resident
- Use abusive, indecent or profane language in the presence of residents.
- Curse at a resident
- Knowingly enter into a business or personal relationship with a resident or their family member or close relative

The information listed above is not all inclusive. When in doubt, one should seek clear guidance from Detention Center Superiors or Administration before engaging in what could be viewed as misconduct later if it "exceeds" professional standards of conduct and/or deviates from detention policy.