



Essex County Juvenile Detention Center

P.R.E.A.

Prison Rape Elimination Act
Visitor's General Information Guide

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 Residents Report Sexual Abuse or Misconduct

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

Division of Child Protection & Permanency
(DCP&P)

1 (877) 652-2873

24 hours / 7 days a week

- *Residents can also report by submitting a grievance form, telling a trusted staff member, or asking a family member or friend to call on their behalf*

Victim Support Services

If you or someone you know is a victim of sexual assault and in need of support services, CSVAs are available to talk to via the hotline and can also accompany you to the hospital for evidence collection, police stations, and courtrooms for support.

A Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate (CSVA)

can be called to assist 24/7 via the SAVE hotline

1-877-733-2273

A CSVA provides emotional support, safety planning, and resources and referrals for those who have experienced sexual violence or care about someone who has. CSVAs are available to talk to via the hotline. Our goal is to be there for you and answer any questions you may have so you can do what is best for you.

Local Office:

Family Service League

440 Franklin Street, Suite 200 - Bloomfield, NJ 07003

Contact #: 973-746-0800

<https://www.familyserviceleague.org/contact>

This is not a Reporting Line

How to report an allegation of Sexual Abuse (*Externally*)

- 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 any 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 of all resident-on-resident and staff-on-resident allegations of sexual abuse /misconduct.
- If you have information regarding an ECJDC resident who has been the victim of sexual misconduct while under ECJDC custody or community supervision, please call the following number:

Division of Child Protection & Permanency (DCP&P)

Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline

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

Additional Support Hotline Telephone #ers

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

1-800-656-4673

(24 hours /7 days)

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 towards 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, including sexual harassment, promptly, thoroughly, and objectively. This includes all third-party and anonymous reports.
- Internal Affairs who have received special training conduct these investigations as assigned by the ECJDC Director. Training includes interviewing sexual abuse victims, evidence preservation in a confinement setting, and criteria required to substantiate a case for administrative action and prosecution referral. Investigators gather and preserve direct and circumstantial evidence, and interview alleged victims, suspected perpetrators, and witnesses.
- Internal Affairs also review prior complaints and reports regarding alleged perpetrators and assess 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. 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***
 - ***Prosecutors Office***
 - ***DCP&P Division of Child Protection & Permanency***
- All sexual abuse cases will be referred for third-party investigation to the Essex County Prosecutors' 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

New Telephone Number

(973) 849-0942 or (973) 849-0415

- Dennis E Hughes - Director 973 849-0475
- Gina Saunders - Superintendent 973 849-0476
- Todd Barcliff - Warden 973 849-0476
- Internal Affairs Investigator 973 849-0960 / 0959
- PREA Coordinate Team 973 849-0983

WEBSITES/RESEARCH/REFERENCES

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