

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

Federal law regarding the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) prohibits sexual contact, consensual or otherwise, between clients and/or staff. All sexual abuse and sexual harassment will be reported and responded to according to the law. It is important to ensure the safety of all parties involved in any behavior that can result in trauma.

CJSD has a zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual assault and sexual harassment. Participation in sexual assault and sexual harassment is strictly PROHIBITED and is subject to disciplinary action. CJSD has designated a PREA Coordinator to oversee, coordinate and monitor compliance with PREA Community Confinement standards.

CJSD clients have the right to be safe from sexual abuse, sexual assault, sexual harassment, or sexual misconduct regardless of whether the client is heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual or transgender. Clients have the right to be safe from unwanted sexual advances and acts. Clients also have the right to say “NO” to pressure to engage in any type of sexual activity. In addition, clients have the right to report any sexual attempt and/or sexual assault immediately.

Reports of sexual behavior may be initially investigated by CJSD staff. Any incident involving potentially criminal behavior will be immediately forwarded to the Grand Junction Police Department (GJPD) for criminal investigation and possible prosecution. The GJPD conducts criminal sexual assault, sexual abuse and sexual harassment related investigations.

Reporting Procedures for Sexual Assault/Rape and Sexual Misconduct

To make a confidential report: All staff members are required to keep the reported information confidential, except to report the information to CJSD Administration.

In cases where a client or third party may need to make a confidential report regarding being a victim, witnessing or has knowledge of any incident concerning sexual misconduct, harassment or assault; the client may report the information in writing or verbally in any one of the following ways:

- Speak in person with a staff member or mailing a note or letter in a sealed envelope to a staff member;
- Send an email to Mesa County Criminal Justice Services at CJSDTIPS@mesacounty.us;
- Call the Criminal Justice Administration at 970-244-1728;
- DOC clients may call the Department of Corrections Tip Line at 1-877-362-8477;
- Call the PREA Crisis Hotline at 800-809-2344;
- Notify the Grand Junction Police Department or;
- Log a complaint with the 21st Judicial District Attorney.

Requests for annual reports on PREA investigations and outcomes will go through the Mesa County Attorney's Office at 970-244-1612.

Client Intake and Orientation Process: As part of the intake process each client is screened to assess their risk of victimization or predation using an objective measurement tool based on specific risk factors. The initial screening occurs within 72 hours of entry and periodic reassessments are done throughout the clients stay. Clients receive information on:

1. CJSD Zero Tolerance Policy;
2. Resources available to address prevention and intervention;
3. Confidential support services;
4. Seeking relief from retaliation;
5. Disciplinary actions for making bad faith allegations;
6. Reporting and confidentiality, and;
7. Treatment and Counseling.

CJSD has Memos of Understanding (MOU's) with community agencies for interpreter services for monolingual clients and for clients with hearing and visual disabilities.

Staff Training: All CJSD staff members are subject to a minimum of four hours of PREA related training within their first two weeks of training. Additionally CJSD provides annual training specific to PREA which may include:

1. Review of all CJSD Policies and Procedures related to PREA;
2. Prohibited Sexual Behaviors;
3. Reactions of Victims / Signs of Abuse;
4. Mandatory Reporting;
5. Sexual Abuse Investigations in confined settings;
6. Ethics in Corrections;
7. Monitoring of Sex Offenders;
8. Conducting searches on cross gender, transgender and intersex clients;
9. Reporting procedures for sexual abuse, staff reporting options;
10. First Responder Duties, and;
11. Bed Placement Issues.

In addition, all contractors, interns and volunteers are screened for prior criminal records and receive an orientation to CJSD's Zero Tolerance Policy and reporting procedures.

Security: CJSD has camera systems and convex mirrors located internally and externally throughout its campus. These measures are intended to help protect staff and client's from sexual abuse and ensures the safety of everyone on the CJSD Campus.