



**All sexual contact between inmates,  
and between staff and inmates, is  
forbidden regardless of consent.**

Sexual Assault is any type of sexual contact involving two or more people when at least one of the involved people does not consent.

Sexual contact includes:

Sexual fondling of a person

Sexual Assault with an object

Oral Sex

Contact between penis and vulva/anus

Consent is not present if:

Sexual contact is forced or against the person's will

There is fear or threat of physical violence or bodily injury

The victim is by law too young or mentally or physically incapable of consenting.

If an inmate has been forced to submit to a sexual relationship, this is sexual assault. It does not matter that the relationship may seem consensual.

## Questions

If you have questions regarding the material in this brochure, bring them to the attention of your supervisor.

The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA) is a Federal law established to address the elimination and prevention of sexual assault and rape in correctional facilities. PREA applies to all federal, state and local prisons, jails, police lock-ups, private facilities, and community settings such as residential facilities.

In response to PREA, the Elkhart County Correctional Complex has committed to a standard of Zero-

Tolerance for sexual abuse of offenders either by staff, other offenders/inmates, volunteers, contracted agents, or individuals having custody of or responsibility for the safety, security, care, and/or treatment of offenders/inmates. Volunteers and agents must be aware that the unprofessional relationships will not be tolerated and these relationships are illegal.

It is a **FELONY** for ECSD staff to engage in sexual relations with an inmate. Consent is NOT a defense.

If there is a substantiated claim of sexual assault or rape on an inmate by another inmate or by a staff member, the perpetrator will be punished, up to and including criminal prosecution.

All allegations and suspicions of sexual contact must be reported, and all reports will be investigated.

Due to the imbalance of power between inmates and staff in a correctional setting, sexual interactions between the two are illegal, unethical, and unprofessional.

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# Sexual Assault Prevention and Reporting



## Sexual Assault Awareness

*A Guide for Staff and Volunteers*

This brochure provides information about the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA).



## Introduction

The ECSD is committed to the prevention of sexual assault, and promotes the safety and protection of all inmates. This brochure provides basic information about sexual assault and ECSD policies. This information will help you recognize and help victims, prevent assaults from happening, and ensure perpetrators are held accountable for their actions.

The ECSD's policies are consistent with the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).

If you, as a staff member, know or suspect that there has been a sexual assault, you must notify the appropriate authority:

- Staff are to report to a Shift Commander or the Corrections Warden any alleged assault that is reported to them. Volunteers are to report to the Programs Lieutenant any allegations of sexual misconduct or abuse.
- You must also secure (or arrange to secure) for the safety of the victim. In most cases this means escorting them to the medical exam area for an initial triage.

Note: Voice messages and pager notifications regarding alleged sexual assaults are unacceptable. Actual voice contact must be made.

## Disclosures

Disclosing sexual assault is a very difficult experience. For an inmate who discloses, the usual feelings of guilt, shame, and fear of being judged may be compounded with concerns for safety, health and the future. Please keep the following things in mind when working with a victim:

**Rape is never the victim's fault.** Anyone can be a victim of sexual assault.

**Do not be judgmental.** Avoid questioning a victim about choices he or she made or actions he or she took. Hindsight is 20/20, and it is unfair to blame victims for decisions they made in the midst of trauma.

**Actively listen to the victim.** Acknowledge what he or she is saying.

**Put all biases aside.** Your role is to listen and respond by providing safety, health, and medical needs for the alleged victim.



90-95% of men who are raped do not report it. Why?

- **Signs that someone may have been sexually assaulted...**

### Physical symptoms may include:

- Change in sleep patterns
- Marked increase / decrease in appetite
- Poor concentration
- Feeling/acting numb or withdrawn
- Easily startles, "jumpy"

### Emotional reactions may include:

- Depression
- Guilt/self-blame
- Anger
- Anxiety
- Fear

### Behavioral reactions may include:

- Change in hygiene
- Acting out—trying to be put into Segregation
- Requesting/refusing to change rooms
- Requesting lab work for sexually transmitted diseases
- Hurting oneself
- Suicidal thoughts and/or attempts

**Did you Know....** Did you know....

52% of all females have experienced some sort of sexual victimization