

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, police lockups, private facilities, and community settings such as residential facilities.

Major Provisions of PREA

- Develop standards for detection, prevention, reduction, and punishment of prison rape
- Collect and disseminate information on the incidence of prison rape

How Does PREA Apply to Jails?

PREA seeks to insure that jails and other correctional settings protect inmates from sexual assault, sexual harassment, "consensual sex" with employees, and inmate-inmate sexual assault. These violations affect security and staff safety, and pose long-term risks to inmates and staff inside jails, and to the public when victimized inmates are released into the community. PREA requires jails to keep data regarding inmate-inmate sexual assaults, nonconsensual sexual acts, and staff sexual misconduct. The PREA Resource Center website has additional information on standards, policy and research.

Zero Tolerance Policy

In accordance with the standards set forth in the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003, the Nevada County Corrections Division has a Zero-Tolerance policy for any act of sexual assault/abuse, sexual misconduct and sexual harassment perpetrated by another inmate or staff member. Sexual conduct between inmates and staff, volunteers, contract personnel, vendors or volunteers is prohibited.

Reporting Sexual Assaults

If you wish to file a third party complaint of sexual assault/abuse, sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, or retaliation on behalf of an inmate currently or previously housed in confinement at a Nevada County Jail facility, you may do so in person, by telephone, or by mail. Your complaint may be anonymous if desired. Allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment are referred for investigation to the Nevada County Sheriff's Office, unless the allegation does not involve potentially criminal behavior. Please consider using one of the following options to file your complaint.

- Nevada County Jail Commander (530) 265-1291
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 928 or 950 Maidu Ave., Nevada City, CA 95959
- Nevada County Sheriff's Office Crime Tip Line (530) 470-2400
- EMAIL: sheriff@co.nevada.ca.us
- National Sexual Assault Hotline (800) 656-4673

If the report involves a Federal Inmate contact:

The Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave, Room 4706, Washington DC, 20530 (800) 869-4499

If the report involves a Civil Immigration Inmate contact:

DHS Office of Inspector General/MAIL STOP 0305 Attn: Office of Investigations
2454 Murray Lane SW Washington, DC 20528-0305 (800) 323-8603