

RIGHT TO REPORT

If you, or someone you know, are experiencing sexual abuse or sexual harassment, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office wants to know. We want you to report right away! Why?

- We want to keep YOU safe; it is our job! It is your right to be free from sexual abuse and sexual harassment.
- We want to conduct an investigation of the reported incident.
- We want to hold the perpetrator accountable for his/her actions.
- We want to provide YOU with relevant information and support services.

How to Report

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office offers multiple ways to report sexual abuse and sexual harassment:

- Telephone at (815) 319-6780.
- Report to any staff, volunteer, or contractor.
- Report to medical or mental health staff.
- Submit a PREA grievance.
- Submit a sick call slip.
- By emailing WCSO.PREA@wcso-il.us .
- Report to the PREA Coordinator or PREA Compliance Manager.

You also can make a report to Rockford 911 Center by dialing *211 from any phone inside the facility. This is a confidential non recorded hotline and is located outside the facility, and you can remain anonymous upon request. See inmate handbook for more information.

IF YOU ARE ABUSED

Confidential support services are available from Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling (RSAC), Inc. and can be reached at (815) 636-9811 or writing them at 4990 E. State St. Rockford, IL 61108.

Once they receive your request they will come speak to you confidentially in a private non recorded room. All reports of abuse will be forwarded to authorities in accordance with mandatory reporting laws.

What to Do If You Have Been Sexually Abused

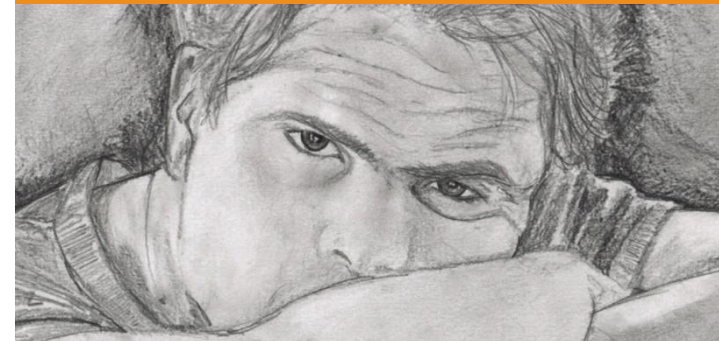
- Tell a staff member as soon as possible.
- Seek medical attention BEFORE you shower, eat, drink, change clothing, brush your teeth, or use the bathroom.
- Share as much information as possible when answering questions to assist with the investigation.

NOTICE FOR FAILURE TO REPORT

Anyone who engages in, fails to report, or knowingly condones sexual harassment or sexual abuse of an inmate shall be subject to disciplinary action and may be subject to criminal prosecution.

END THE SILENCE

Zero Tolerance for Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment: Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)



Winnebago County Corrections Facility
Winnebago County Sheriff's Office

PREA Coordinator:
Sgt. Anthony Ponte (815) 319-6074

-OR-

Winnebago County Sheriff's Office PREA line
(815) 319-6780

ZERO TOLERANCE

Winnebago County Sheriff's Office has a zero-tolerance policy for sexual abuse and sexual harassment. What does this really mean? It means that YOU have the right to be free from sexual abuse and sexual harassment by anyone at the facility, including an inmate, staff member, volunteer, or contractor. No one has the right to sexually abuse or sexually harass you. No one.

What Is Sexual Harassment?

- Repeated and unwelcome comments or gestures of a sexual nature, including demeaning references to gender, sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing, or obscene language or gestures.
- Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances; requests for sexual favors; or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature.

What Is Sexual Abuse?

- Forced or coerced sexual intercourse or sexual contact when the victim does not consent or is unable to consent or refuse. This may include the use of fear or threat of physical violence, psychological intimidation, bullying, and physical force.
- Sexual abuse also can include incidents of penetration by a foreign object.

What is staff voyeurism?

An invasion of privacy of an inmate by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer for reasons unrelated to official duties.

Examples of Staff Voyeurism

- Watching an inmate use the toilet, shower, or change clothes.
- Requiring an inmate to show his/her buttocks, genitals, or breasts.
- Taking pictures of an inmate's naked body or toilet use.

Tips for Avoiding Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment

A victim is never to blame for being attacked, but these tips may help you lower your risk of sexual abuse or sexual harassment.

- Pay attention to your surroundings.
- Carry yourself in a confident manner at all times.
- Do not accept gifts or favors from others. They usually come with "strings attached" or future paybacks, including sexual favors.
- Do not accept an offer from another resident to be your protector or "friend."
- Find a staff member with whom you feel comfortable discussing your fears and concerns. Confide in him/her if you feel threatened; call (815) 319-6780, (815) 319-6704, put an emergency grievance in by using the PREA tab in the kiosk, or email WCSO.PREA@wco-so-il.us.
- Be alert! Do not use contraband such as drugs or alcohol as they will weaken your ability to be alert and make good choices.
- Be direct and firm when others ask you to do things that you do not want to do.
- Do not give mixed messages to others regarding your wishes for sexual activity.
- Choose your acquaintances wisely.

**NO
MEANS
NO**

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office does not tolerate any form of sexual abuse or sexual harassment. The goal of this facility is the safety of the inmates. The facility will hold accountable any persons found to have committed any form of sexual abuse or sexual harassment against another person.

If any of the information presented here is confusing, or you have questions about something that may be happening to you, ask a staff person you trust; or call (815) 319-6780.

You also can contact the PREA Coordinator:
PREA Coordinator:
Sgt. Anthony Ponte (815) 319-6074