

CHAPTER IX

PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT OF 2003

The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 establishes a “zero tolerance” approach to prison rape and makes identification, prosecution and elimination of prison rape a top priority of state correctional agencies across the nation.

The Mississippi Department of Corrections strives to maintain a safe and secure environment for all offenders incarcerated within the agency. If an offender is being pressured by another offender and/or staff for money, property, or sexual favors, the offender should immediately contact the unit case manager, unit administrator, or any employee with whom they feel comfortable. It is imperative that one of these individuals be contacted immediately so that the offender can be removed from a potentially serious situation.

If you are a *victim* of sexual assault it is imperative that you contact the unit case manager or unit administrator immediately. **DO NOT BATHE, SHOWER, CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES OR BRUSH YOUR TEETH.** It is important that evidence be collected to assist in your attacker’s prosecution. Physical evidence is important because law enforcement relies heavily on the information.

The staff member you contact will immediately take you to a safe place. You will be referred to appropriate medical and mental health treatment.

If you are the perpetrator of a sexual assault, the following are the risks involved.

1. The possibility of infection by the HIV virus that causes AIDS.
2. The possibility of contracting other sexually transmitted diseases.
3. As an incarcerated felon, you could face a minimum of 5 to 99 years or life.
4. You risk confinement in Administrative Segregation and/or a reduction in custody due to being a threat to other offenders.

To Report Sexual Abuse

Internal Assistance

MDOC PREA Tip Line

Lift handset – Select 1 for English or 2 for Spanish – When prompted enter *9999# - Leave a message

External Assistance

MS Coalition Against Sexual Assault

POB 4172 Jackson, MS 39296 or call 1-888-987-9011

Support services relating to sexual violence are available through MSCASA. These services include hospital accompaniment for the victim during the forensic medical examination process and in-hospital investigatory interviews, and in-person emotion support services.

The provisions of the PREA are incorporated in MDOC policy.