Mississippi Department of Corrections Annual Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Report

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) is the first United States Federal law passed dealing with sexual assault of prisoners and was signed into law on September 4, 2003. The PREA standards were drafted with the goal of ending prison rape.

The Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) has adopted rules of preventing, detecting and responding to sexual abuse and sexual misconducts in the correctional setting. As a result of MDOC's effort to become compliant with the PREA standards, the PREA Division, a branch of the Corrections Investigation Division (CID), was implemented in an effort to ensure that all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual misconducts are investigated promptly and thoroughly.

MDOC has established and implemented a zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual abuse and sexual misconduct in an effort to make identification, prosecution and elimination of sexual misconducts and sexual abuse a top priority for MDOC and any contracting facility who houses MDOC offenders.

MDOC has provided multiple ways for offenders and staff members to privately report sexual abuse and sexual misconduct complaints. The PREA Tip Line was created so offenders can confidentially and/or anonymously report allegations of sexual abuse and sexual misconduct. In order for an offender to make a call from his/her prospective housing unit, the offender can lift the telephone's handset, select language preference, enter the tip line number designated for their facility and leave a two (2) minute voice recorded message regarding the alleged incident. A telephone typewriter (TTY) is available for the hearing impaired.

An offender can report a PREA incident to a staff member who will complete a PREA Offender Referral Form regarding the incident. A PREA incident can be accepted verbally, in writing or from third-parties. Civilians, third-parties and staff members can confidentially report a PREA incident by calling (601) 359-5600.

Offenders can also report sexual misconduct or sexual abuse by writing a letter to the Mississippi Coalition against Sexual Assault (MCASA). MCASA is a state-wide non-profit, nongovernmental victims' advocacy organization representing sexual assault centers in Mississippi.

MCASA can be contacted at the following address and telephone number:

Mississippi Coalition against Sexual Assault
P. O. Box 4172
Jackson, MS 39296

Third-parties may call (888) 987-9011.

Staff members shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions up to and including termination for violating agency sexual abuse or sexual harassment policies. Criminal acts will be presented to the local District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

All allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment shall be referred to the Corrections Investigation Division (CID) for investigation.

MDOC will make its best effort to immediately respond to allegations, fully investigate reported incidents, pursue disciplinary action, and refer for investigation and prosecution those who commit sexual assaults.

Corrective Actions

- Corrective Action 2012/ A PREA staff member was assigned to each facility to assist in the agency's effort to comply with the standards
- Corrective Action 2012/ The PREA Tip Line was established for reporting purposes
- Corrective Action 2013/ Increased awareness and education for staff and offenders
- Corrective Action 2013/ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the MS Coalition against Sexual Assault was signed and provides victims of sexual assault a victims advocate upon request
- Corrective Action 2013/ The Youthful Offender Unit opened in an effort to provide sight and sound separation from adult offenders

MDOC collects aggregated data for the purpose of documentation of statistical data as required by PREA standards 115.87 entitled, "Data Collection," 115.88 entitled, "Data review for corrective action" and 115.89 entitled, "Data storage, publication, and destruction."

Only aggregated numbers will be reported annually. There will be no reporting by institution or names in order to ensure the integrity of the process, protect the security of the institution, and encourage further reporting of PREA incidents.

PREA Statistical Data for 2012

<u>MDOC</u>

Inmate on Inmate Nonconsensual Sexual Acts reported	<u>20</u>
Number Substantiated	<u>0</u>
Number Unsubstantiated	<u>19</u>
Number Unfounded	<u>1</u>
Investigation Ongoing	<u>0</u>
Staff Sexual Misconducts	<u>12</u>
Substantiated	<u>2</u>
Number Unsubstantiated	<u>9</u>
Number Unfounded	<u>1</u>
Investigation Ongoing	<u>0</u>
Abusive Sexual Misconducts	<u>0</u>
Staff Sexual Harassment	<u>0</u>

Privates 2012

Inmate on Inmate Nonconsensual Sexual Acts reported   <u>26</u>

Number Substantiated   <u>2</u>

Number Unsubstantiated   <u>18</u>

Number Unfounded   <u>2</u>

Investigation Ongoing   <u>4</u>

Staff Sexual Misconducts   <u>3</u>

Substantiated   <u>1</u>

Number Unsubstantiated   <u>1</u>

Number Unfounded   <u>0</u>

Investigation Ongoing   <u>1</u>

Abusive Sexual Misconducts   <u>0</u>

Staff Sexual Harassment   <u>0</u>

PREA Statistical Data for 2013

<u>MDOC</u>

Inmate on Inmate Nonconsensual Sexual Acts reported <u>34</u>

Number Substantiated <u>0</u>

Number Unsubstantiated <u>17</u>

Number Unfounded <u>15</u>

Investigation Ongoing <u>2</u>

Abusive Sexual Misconducts <u>0</u>

Staff Sexual Misconducts <u>25</u>

Substantiated <u>0</u>

Number Unsubstantiated <u>8</u>

Number Unfounded 12

Investigation Ongoing <u>5</u>

Staff Sexual Harassment <u>22</u>

Substantiated <u>0</u>

Number Unsubstantiated <u>7</u>

Number Unfounded <u>13</u>

Investigation Ongoing <u>2</u>

Privates 2013

Inmate on Inmate Nonconsensual Sexual Acts reported   21

Number Substantiated   1

Number Unsubstantiated   11

Number Unfounded   8

Investigation Ongoing   1

Staff Sexual Misconducts   3

Substantiated   0

Number Unsubstantiated   1

Number Unfounded   0

Investigation Ongoing   2

Abusive Sexual Misconducts   0

Staff Sexual Harassment   0