

The Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Services Center (JJSC) has established a Zero Tolerance Policy in its efforts to comply with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), Federal Law of 2003.

PREA is a federal law enacted in 2003 created to eliminate sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and retaliation in confinement facilities, both juvenile and adult. The Final Juvenile Standards were issued on May 17, 2012.

JJSC PREA Policy:

The Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Services Center has zero-tolerance for sexual misconduct involving any juvenile. It is the policy of the Juvenile Justice Services Center to provide a safe, humane, and secure environment, free from all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment, by establishing definitions of prohibited conduct and maintaining a program of prevention, detection, and response to all forms of sexual misconduct.

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines and procedures to protect juveniles and staff from sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, and retaliation. This zero tolerance policy outlines JJSC's approach to prevent, detect, investigate, track, and respond to all alleged and substantiated sexual misconduct, sexual abuse, sexual-harassment, and retaliation that occur at JJSC.

Sexual misconduct between staff and juveniles; volunteers or contract personnel and juveniles; juveniles and juveniles, regardless of consensual status, is strictly prohibited.

Reporting and Investigations:

Any knowledge, suspicions, or information regarding any form of sexual misconduct in any facility that involves a juvenile must be reported to a supervisor, shift manager, director, or PREA coordinator.

The Philadelphia Police Department Special Victims Unit (SVU) and the State Department of Human Services (DHS) has the legal authority to conduct criminal investigations for JJSC. All allegations of potentially criminal behavior involving sexual abuse or sexual harassment between staff and resident, non-employee and resident, or resident and resident shall be fully investigated by the SVU upon referral.

The State Department of Human Services (DHS) will follow its investigative procedures to conduct a complete administrative investigation of all referred allegations of potentially criminal behavior involving sexual abuse or sexual harassment of residents. Documentation shall be kept on all allegations referred to the Philadelphia Police Department Special Victims Unit and the State Department of Human Services.

Data Review for Corrective Action and Publication, starting in 2014.

In compliance with Standard 115.388 of the PREA Standards, JJSC shall annually review data collected and aggregated, pursuant to Standard 115.387, in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training, including:

1. Identifying problem areas.
2. Taking corrective action on an ongoing basis; and
3. Preparing an annual report of its findings and corrective actions.

Also, in compliance with Section 115.389 of the PREA Standards, JJSC shall make all aggregated sexual abuse data readily available to the public annually.

Update Audit Reports:

The Juvenile Justice Services Center received the following onsite PREA audit, pursuant to Standard 115.401. The first audit, December 8, 9, and 10, 2014. The second Final PREA Audit Report was received on July 10, 2017. The third PREA Audit was conducted on October 30, November 1st, and 2nd, 2020. All three results exceeded our expectations. As a result, we join the ranks of PREA compliant facilities in Pennsylvania and Nationwide. Full results are found in 2014, 2017, and 2020 PREA Auditor's Summary report.

Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Services Center

- Nelson Walker – Deputy Commissioner
- Michael Scott – Executive Director
- Antoinette M. Sharp – Director of Professional Services
- Kimberly Broughton – Director of Residential Services
- Norman Bell III – Director of Residential Services

Marlo M. Claxton – PREA Coordinator
91 N. 48th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19139
(215) 683-9147