

CHEROKEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ADULT DETENTION CENTER

PREA

PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT ANNUAL REPORT 2015

The Cherokee County Sheriff's Office has established zero tolerance for any incident of sexual assault or sexual misconduct between agency employees, contract employees & volunteers and persons in custody.

PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT (*PREA*)

PREA was established in 2003 to address the problem of sexual abuse and sexual harassment of persons in the custody of U.S. correctional agencies.

Major provisions of **PREA** include the development of standards for detection, prevention, reduction and punishment of prison/jail rapes.

The Cherokee County Sheriff's office continues to enforce **zero tolerance** on all issues pertaining to sexual abuse and sexual harassment involving inmates and is working continuously to implement new policies, training requirements for staff and inmates, and developing standards for detection, prevention, reduction and punishment of sexual assault.

PREA INVESTIGATIONS

It is the policy of the Cherokee Sheriff's Office to thoroughly investigate all complaints of alleged employee misconduct, to properly determine whether the allegations are valid or invalid, and to take appropriate follow-up action.

1. Whenever an agency employee is alleged to have been in violation of a criminal offense, the matter will be investigated by the agency's Criminal Investigations Division for misdemeanor offenses or referred to the Georgia Bureau of Investigations for any felony offense or as otherwise determined by the Sheriff.
2. Whenever an agency employee is under investigation for any criminal violation, whether by this agency or an outside agency, a concurrent internal investigation may be conducted by the Internal Affairs Officer when directed by the Sheriff.

PREA REPORT ACTIVITY 2015

Review data collected and aggregated in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of our sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices and training, including by:

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

PREA REPORT ACTIVITY 2015

115.88 (C) The agency's report shall be approved by the agency head and made readily available to the public through its website or, if it does not have one, through other means.

PREA

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Analysis: Policy review and updates have not been completed on ADC policies annually as per PREA standards.

Corrective Action: A policy review board was established and all ADC policies were read, reviewed and are currently being updated to reflect changes within the agency and compliance with PREA standards.

Analysis: Training on pat/strip searches of Transgender and Intersex inmates needed.

Corrective Action: Training material was developed and disseminated for agency wide training on proper procedures while conducting a pat down or strip search of Transgender and Intersex inmates. A Gender Search Preference form has been implemented into the Book-In process for Transgender and Intersex inmates to document which sex they identify as and whom they feel more comfortable with doing a pat down or strip search. Training has been implemented into new hire orientation training.

PREA

ANNUAL REPORT 2015 (CONTINUED)

Analysis: Training needed on the actions to be taken when a PREA incident is reported.

Corrective Action: Training material was developed and disseminated for agency wide training on the actions to be taken if an incident is reported. The training included how an incident can be reported, whom can report an incident, official response following a report and the investigation process into the report of a PREA incident. Training has been implemented into new hire orientation training.

PREA

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Reported PREA Incidents Inmate-to-Inmate Sexual Abuse

The Cherokee County ADC received **5** reports of possible PREA incidents involving inmates.

Substantiated Reports: 1

Unsubstantiated Reports: 1

Unfounded reports: 3

Five reported PREA inmate to inmate event's occurred within the year of 2015 at our facility.

- One was substantiated, which means the incident was investigated and found to have occurred.
- One was unsubstantiated, which means the allegation was investigated, but there was not enough evidence to determine whether or not the event occurred.
- Three were unfounded, which means the allegation was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

PREA

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Reported PREA Incidents Staff-to-Inmate Sexual Abuse

The Cherokee County ADC received **4** reports of possible PREA incidents involving staff, contracted employees and volunteers with inmates.

Substantiated Reports: 1 (contract employee)

Unsubstantiated Reports: 1 (Sheriff's Office employee)

Unfounded Reports: 2 (Contract employees)

Four PREA staff-to-inmate events were reported within the year of 2015 at our facility.

- One was substantiated, which means the incident was investigated and found to have occurred.
- One was unsubstantiated, which means the allegation was investigated, but there was not enough evidence to determine whether or not the event occurred.
- Two were unfounded, which means the allegation was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

REPORTING A PREA INCIDENT

If you or someone who you know have experienced sexual assault in our facility or elsewhere, GET HELP. You can contact the PREA Coordinator for the Cherokee County ADC by phone at [678-493-4239](tel:678-493-4239), and by email at sdvasquez@cherokeega.com. You can report information anonymously if you wish. If you would rather contact a crisis center, information is listed below. Our facility has a strict no tolerance policy for sexual assault and harassment.

The rape crisis and sexual assault centers around Georgia provide all or some of the following services for victims of rape and child sexual abuse and their families:

- *24 hour crisis hotline*
- *24-hour medical accompaniment*
- *Accompaniment to police interviews*
- *Legal advocacy*
- *Courtroom accompaniment*
- *Professional counseling for survivors, family, and friends*
- *Support group for rape survivors*
- *Referrals to counseling and other services*
- *Self-defense classes*
- *Community education and prevention programs*

To find the Rape Crisis Center nearest you, check out our map or listing by county, or call [1-800-656-HOPE](tel:1-800-656-HOPE) (1-800-656-4673).

REPORTING A PREA INCIDENT

YWCA of NW Georgia

48 Henderson St SW
Marietta, GA 30064

Hotline Phone: 770-427-3390

Business Phone: 770-427-2902

Gwinnett Sexual Assault Center

P.O. Box 1329

Duluth, Georgia 30096

Hotline Phone: 770-476-7407

Business Phone: 770-497-9122

DeKalb Rape Crisis Center

204 Church Street, Decatur, GA, 30030

Hotline Phone: 404-377-1428

Business Phone: 404-377-1429

Rape Response, Inc.

Gainesville, GA 30503

Hotline Phone: 770-503-7273

Business Phone: 770-503-7273

The Sexual Assault Center of Northwest Georgia

P.O. Box 928

Rome, GA 30162

Hotline Phone: 706-802-0580

Business Phone: 706-292-9024