

## **Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Overview**

The Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office, Department of Corrections, has a zero-tolerance for sexual abuse. The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 is a federal law that seeks to eliminate sexual assaults and sexual misconduct. This law applies to all federal and state prisons, jails, police lock-ups, private facilities, juvenile facilities, and community correctional settings.

- The Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office, Department of Corrections, has a zero-tolerance standard for incidence of sexual abuse and sexual harassment and also makes prevention of inmate sexual abuse a top priority. The Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office also extends this zero tolerance policy to include any personnel, volunteers, interns, or contract personnel, who may have contact with inmates and will thoroughly investigate and hold accountable person(s) who violate these policies and Ohio State laws.
- The Bureau of Justice Statistics carries out, annually, a comprehensive statistical review and analysis of the incidence and effects of prison rape.
- The National Prison Rape Elimination Commission has studied the impact of prison rape on Federal, State, and local governments and on communities and social institutions. Their recommended national standards for enhancing the detection, prevention, reduction, and punishment of prison rape have been submitted to the U.S. Attorney General.

## **New Laws Affecting - The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)**

The final National Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Prison Rape (PREA standards) were signed by Attorney General Eric Holder on May 16, 2012 and released by the United States Department of Justice on May 17, 2012. They were published in the Federal Register on June 20, 2012.

The Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office, Department of Corrections, continues to work toward compliance with the 2003 federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). The National Prison Rape Elimination Commission's ("NPREC") final standards for prevention, detection, response, and monitoring of sexual abuse in adult prisons passed on May 17, 2012.

State and local agencies have one year to come into compliance with the federal standards, or risk losing some federal funding. DOC has taken a proactive role in developing a statewide program and has actively participated in providing feedback on the national guidelines.

## **Reporting**

Inmates who are a victim of sexual abuse and sexual harassment are encouraged to talk to any staff member immediately. This will allow for the quickest response. Inmates may also report sexual abuse through a written Inmate Request Form (Kite), through the inmate grievance procedure or contact the Rape Crisis Hotline at 216-619-6192.

The Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office, Department of Corrections, shall receive third-party reports of sexual abuse and/or sexual harassment by contacting the Warden's Office at 216-443-6125, Monday thru Friday between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm, otherwise call 216-443-6155.