



PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT (PREA)

2018 REPORT

2018 Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Report

The Connecticut Judicial Branch is subject to the standards set forth in the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA), 34 U.S.C. § 30301, et seq. PREA established federal requirements for the prevention, detection and response to sexual abuse and sexual harassment in confinement facilities. The PREA standards for lockups, juvenile facilities and community confinement facilities are all applicable to the Judicial Branch.

The Connecticut Judicial Branch has lockups in 39 courthouses that are overseen by Judicial Marshal Services.

The Judicial Branch operates two Juvenile Detention Centers located in Bridgeport and Hartford run by the Court Support Services Division (CSSD) Juvenile Residential Services.

The Judicial Branch also contracts with adult and juvenile providers throughout the state to provide residentially-based services for individuals in need of supervision, substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, and housing services.

The Connecticut Judicial Branch is committed to meeting its requirements under the Prison Rape Elimination Act. When individuals are placed in the custody of the Judicial Branch, the Judicial Branch has an obligation to keep them safe and free from all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. The Judicial Branch must be accountable to those individuals. They have the right to be held in an environment where sexual abuse and sexual harassment will not be tolerated; and if it does occur, appropriate remedial steps will be taken to prevent it from happening in the future.

Individuals in the custody of the Judicial Branch are entitled to have access to justice. Their status as a confined individual must not interfere with that. All individuals who utilize the court system must have confidence that they will be treated fairly and with respect. Complying with the PREA standards helps to ensure that.

Judicial Branch Progress in Addressing the PREA Standards

The Connecticut Judicial Branch continued to make tremendous strides in implementing the PREA standards during the course of 2018. In 2018, the following actions took place:

- Conducted on-site PREA audits of juvenile detention centers, courthouse lockups, contracted juvenile and adult community residential programs
- Delivered initial PREA training to 64 new full-time Juvenile Detention Officers and 20 new Temporary Juvenile Detention Officers during Pre-Service training
- Delivered initial PREA training to 117 new Judicial Marshals
- Published a psychiatry issue brief in collaboration with the University of Massachusetts Medical School entitled, “Preventing Prison Rape: Designing and Validating a PREA Screening Tool for Pre-Trial Juvenile Detention Centers”
- Worked to copyright the Judicial Branch PREA Classification Screen and accompanying PREA Classification Screen Rating Guide
- Bridgeport and Hartford Juvenile Detention Centers, REGIONS unit for post-adjudicated juveniles participated in the United States Department of Justice National Survey of Youth in Custody

In the coming year, the Judicial Branch will be focusing on the following tasks:

- Create PREA brochure for contractors entering confinement areas
- Conduct PREA investigation refresher training
- Provide annual refresher training to Judicial Branch employees
- Conduct on-site PREA audits of juvenile detention centers, courthouse lockups, contracted juvenile and adult community residential programs

Judicial Marshal Services¹

Judicial Marshal Services is responsible for courthouse security and the transportation and custody of prisoners. Judicial Marshals oversee lockups in 39 courthouses throughout the state. These lockups are subject to the PREA Lockup Standards.²

In 2018, 104,311 individuals were in the custody of Judicial Marshal Services.

In 2018, there was one unfounded report of sexual abuse involving a Judicial Marshal and an individual in the custody of the Judicial Branch.

In 2018, there was one unfounded report of sexual harassment involving a Judicial Marshal and an individual in the custody of the Judicial Branch.

In 2018, there was one unsubstantiated report of detainee on detainee sexual harassment.

In 2018, there were two reports of sexual abuse or sexual harassment that were reported to Judicial Marshals that occurred at confinement facilities not under the control of Judicial Marshal Services. In those cases, the Judicial Marshal Services' PREA Coordinator contacted the highest ranking officer at the location where the alleged incident occurred to inform them of the allegation.

Since the Judicial Branch began implementing the PREA standards in 2013, there have been very few reported incidents. During that time, there has only been one reported incident that was substantiated. In that case, the staff member involved was disciplined.

¹For purposes of this report, the following definitions are applicable:

Substantiated allegation means an allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.

Unfounded allegation means an allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

Unsubstantiated allegation means an allegation that was investigated and the investigation produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether or not the event occurred.

28 C.F.R. §115.5.

²The courthouse lockups overseen by Judicial Marshal Services do not hold individuals overnight. Accordingly, they are not audited by DOJ-certified PREA auditors. PREA Lockup standard 28 C.F.R. §115.193.

Juvenile Residential Services³

Juvenile Residential Services oversees two juvenile detention facilities that are American Correctional Association (ACA) and National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) accredited. These facilities are subject to the PREA Juvenile Facility Standards.

Both juvenile detention centers were audited in 2014 by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor and were certified as compliant with the PREA Juvenile Facility Standards. In 2017, both juvenile detention centers were recertified by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor as compliant with the PREA Juvenile Facility Standards.

In 2018, 1,272 juveniles were admitted into the two juvenile detention centers.

In 2018, there was one unsubstantiated report of sexual abuse by a staff member against a juvenile.

In 2018, there was one unfounded report of sexual harassment by a staff member against a juvenile.

In 2018, there were two unfounded reports of sexual abuse by a juvenile against a juvenile.

In 2018, there were five reports of sexual harassment by a juvenile against a juvenile. One was substantiated, one was unsubstantiated and three were unfounded.

Since the Judicial Branch began implementing the PREA standards in 2013, there have been very few reported incidents. During that time, there have only been two reported incidents that were substantiated. In each case, the staff member involved was either disciplined or terminated.

³For purposes of this report, the following definitions are applicable:

Substantiated allegation means an allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.

Unfounded allegation means an allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

Unsubstantiated allegation means an allegation that was investigated and the investigation produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether or not the event occurred.

28 C.F.R. §115.5.

Juvenile Contracted Providers

The Connecticut Judicial Branch contracts with community providers for 7 community residential programs for juveniles within their care and custody. These facilities are subject to the PREA Juvenile Facility Standards.

Boys and Girls Village, The HAMILTON Program, Bridgeport

The HAMILTON Program is a residential program for boys.

In 2018, there was one unfounded report of sexual abuse involving a staff member and a juvenile.

In 2018, there were no reports of sexual harassment in this program.

Boys and Girls Village, Re-entry, Goal-oriented, Individualized, Opportunities to Nurture Success (REGIONS), Milford

REGIONS is a staff-secure residential program.

In 2018, there were no reported incidents of sexual abuse or sexual harassment in this program.

Connecticut Junior Republic (CJR), Boys Intermediate Residential Program (BIRP), Litchfield

BIRP is an intermediate community residential program for boys. BIRP was certified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor in 2015. It was recertified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor in 2018.

In 2018, there were no reported incidents of sexual abuse or sexual harassment in this program.

Connecticut Junior Republic (CJR), Re-entry, Goal-oriented, Individualized, Opportunities to Nurture Success (REGIONS), Waterbury

REGIONS is a staff-secure residential program for boys.

In 2018, there were no reported incidents of sexual abuse or sexual harassment in this program.

Connecticut Junior Republic (CJR), Therapeutic Respite and Assessment Center (TRAC) Program, Litchfield

TRAC is a community residential program for boys. TRAC was certified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor in 2015. It was recertified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor in 2018.

In 2018, there were no reported incidents of sexual abuse or sexual harassment in this program.

Journey House Residential Treatment Center, Mansfield

Journey House Residential Treatment Center is residential treatment program for girls.

In 2018, there were no reported incidents of sexual abuse or sexual harassment in this program.

North American Family Institute (NAFI), Litchfield

NAFI is an intermediate community residential program for girls. NAFI was certified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor in 2015. It was recertified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor in 2018.

In 2018, there were no reported incidents of sexual abuse or sexual harassment in this program.

Adult Contracted Providers⁴

The Connecticut Judicial Branch contracts with community-based providers and/or has entered into Memorandums of Agreement with other state agencies for 16 programs for adults within their care and custody. These facilities are subject to the PREA Community Confinement Standards.

APT Foundation, Amethyst House and Residential Services, New Haven

The APT Foundation is a substance abuse treatment program. APT Foundation was certified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified auditor in 2017.

In 2018, there were no reported incidents of sexual abuse or sexual harassment in this facility.

Connecticut Renaissance West, Waterbury

Connecticut Renaissance West is a substance abuse treatment program. Renaissance West was certified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor in 2016.

In 2018, there was one unsubstantiated report of sexual abuse by a staff member against a resident.

In 2018, there were no reported incidents of sexual harassment in this facility.

Hartford Transitional Housing, Hartford

Hartford Transitional Housing is a transitional housing program. Hartford Transitional Housing was certified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor in 2015. It was recertified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor in 2018.

In 2018, there were no reported incidents of sexual abuse or sexual harassment in this facility.

⁴For purposes of this report, the following definitions are applicable:

Substantiated allegation means an allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.

Unfounded allegation means an allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

Unsubstantiated allegation means an allegation that was investigated and the investigation produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether or not the event occurred.

28 C.F.R. §115.5.

Help, Inc., Waterbury

Help, Inc. is a substance abuse and mental health treatment center. Help, Inc. was certified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor in 2015. It was recertified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor in 2018.

In 2018, there was one substantiated report of sexual abuse by a client against a client.

In 2018, there were no reported incidents of sexual harassment in this facility.

The January Center, Uncasville

The January Center is a sex offender treatment program. The January Center was certified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified auditor in 2015. It was recertified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor in 2018.

In 2018, there was one unfounded report of sexual abuse by a staff member against a client. There was also one unsubstantiated report of sexual abuse by a client against a client.

In 2018, there was one substantiated report of sexual harassment by a client against a client.

Lebanon Pines, Lebanon

Lebanon Pines is a long-term substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation program. Lebanon Pines was certified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified auditor in 2017.

In 2018, there was one unsubstantiated report of sexual abuse by a staff member against a client.

In 2018, there were no reported incidents of sexual harassment in this facility.

Liberation House, Stamford

Liberation House is a substance abuse treatment program. Liberation House was certified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor in 2016.

In 2018, there was one unsubstantiated report of sexual harassment by a client against a client.

In 2018, there were no reported incidents of sexual abuse in this facility.

McCall Foundation, Hotchkiss House, Torrington

McCall Foundation is a substance abuse treatment program. McCall Foundation was certified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor in 2015.

In 2018, there were no reported incidents of sexual abuse or sexual harassment in this facility.

Milestone, Putnam

Milestone is an intensive short-term substance abuse treatment program. Milestone was certified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor in 2015.

In 2018, there was one substantiated report of sexual abuse by a client against a client.

In 2018, there were no reported incidents of sexual harassment in this facility.

Perception House, Willimantic

Perception House is a substance abuse and mental health treatment program. Perception House was certified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor in 2015. It was recertified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor in 2018.

In 2018, there were two reports of sexual abuse by a client against a client. One was unsubstantiated and one was unfounded.

In 2018, there were nine reports of sexual harassment by a client against a client. Four of those reports were substantiated, four were unsubstantiated, and one was unfounded.

Project More, New Haven

Project More is a transitional housing program. Project More was certified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified auditor in 2015.

In 2018, there was one substantiated report of sexual abuse by a client against a client.

In 2018, there were no reported incidents of sexual harassment in this facility.

Sierra Center, New Haven

The Sierra Center is a long-term mental health and substance abuse counseling, employment readiness, community service program. The Sierra Center was certified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified auditor in 2015. It was recertified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor in 2018.

In 2018, there were no reported incidents of sexual abuse or sexual harassment in this facility.

Union House Transitional Housing, Bridgeport

Union House is a transitional housing program. Union House was certified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor in 2015. It was recertified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor in 2018.

In 2018, there was one unsubstantiated report of sexual abuse by a client against a client.

In 2018, there were no reported incidents of sexual harassment in this facility.

Virginia Wells Women's Transitional Housing, New Haven

Virginia Wells is a transitional housing program. Virginia Wells was certified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor in 2015.

In 2018, there was one substantiated report of sexual abuse by a client against a client.

In 2018, there were two reports of sexual harassment by a client against a client. One report was substantiated and one was unsubstantiated.

Waterbury Transitional Housing, Waterbury

Waterbury Transitional Housing is a transitional housing program. Waterbury Transitional Housing was certified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor in 2016.

In 2018, there was one unsubstantiated report of sexual abuse by a staff member against a client.

In 2018, there was one unsubstantiated report of sexual harassment by a staff member against a client.

Wellmore Therapeutic Shelter, Waterbury

Wellmore Therapeutic Shelter is a short-term case management program with treatment services. Wellmore Therapeutic Shelter was certified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified auditor in 2014, when it was known as the Morris Shelter. It was recertified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor in 2018.

In 2018, there were no reported incidents of sexual abuse or sexual harassment in this facility.