

Sumter County Sheriff's Office
Detention Center
2020

Prison Rape Elimination Act
Annual Report

2020 Annual PREA Report

What is PREA?

The federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was signed into law September 2003 by President George W. Bush. Its main purpose is to protect the Eight Amendment rights of federal, state, and local prisoners and inmates. PREA makes the prevention of sexual abuse and sexual harassment of incarcerated persons a top priority with national standards for the detection, prevention, reduction and punishment of sexual misconduct and sexual abuse in prisons and jails. It also increases accountability for administrators who fail to prevent, reduce, and punish such misconduct.

What is a violation of PREA and how will the Sheriff's Office respond?

Sexual contact in any form between staff (contractors, volunteers, and vendors) and inmates is a violation of PREA. This not only applies to inmates in custody, but also to those who may be in transition between custody levels, such as in drug court, under treatment, in transitional housing and/or under Probation, Parole and Post-Prison Supervision. It also applies to same sex, as well as opposite sex encounters. There is no such thing as consensual sex between staff and inmates. Sexual abuse and sexual harassment between inmates is also a PREA violation.

The Sumter County Sheriff's Office is committed to a ZERO TOLERANCE for sexual abuse or sexual harassment of inmates under its authority. The Sumter County Sheriff's Office will aggressively respond, investigate and support prosecution of such misconduct.

On June 20, 2012, the Department of Justice issued a final rule for National Standards which went into effect August 20, 2013. The PREA standards require agencies to ensure that each facility operated by the agency, or by a private organization on behalf of the agency, receive an external audit.

Sheriff William O. "Bill" Farmer decided the Sumter County Sheriff's Office will become compliant with the PREA Standards and initiated a process to bring that decision to fruition by the end 2016. On August 15, 2016, the Sumter County Detention Center was found to be in compliance with all applicable PREA Standards.

The Sheriff's Office has a full-time PREA Coordinator to help with the implementation of policy changes through the agency and developing a training curriculum for staff and inmates with ongoing training for all new staff, volunteers and contractors.

As always, the Sumter County Sheriff's Office is striving for excellence in this process and is dedicated to PREA's ZERO TOLERANCE regarding any type of sexual abuse or harassment in its facility.

Definition of Terms

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

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

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

Between January 01, 2020 and December 31, 2020, how many acts of inmate on inmate sexual acts or harassment were reported?

Number reported.....	13
Number Substantiated.....	03
Number Unsubstantiated.....	02
Number Unfounded.....	08
Investigation Ongoing.....	00

How many allegations of staff sexual misconduct were reported?

Number Reported.....	01
Number Substantiated.....	00
Number Unsubstantiated.....	00
Number Unfounded.....	01
Number Ongoing.....	00

This report complies with PREA Standards 115.88 (c) – Data Review which states, "The agency's report shall be approved by the agency head and made readily available to the public through the website or, through other means.