

How is LPSO educating offenders and staff about PREA?

LPSO requires every offender and employee to attend regular training on prison sexual dynamics and on ways to detect, prevent and respond to incidents of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and inappropriate relationships between staff and offenders. Since the new standards in 2012, LPSO has delivered new training programs to ensure compliance with federal law and the state's zero-tolerance policies.

What should someone do if they suspect a sexual assault has occurred?

Anyone who suspects or has knowledge of sexual harassment, sexual assault or sexual misconduct in any correctional facility should report it to a staff member or volunteer. Inmates may file grievances or tell any staff member with whom they feel comfortable and trust. Anyone who receives a report of sexual abuse in any confinement setting must send it up the chain of command for investigation and disposition.

What is the penalty for not reporting a suspected sexual assault?

Employees or volunteers may face disciplinary action, including termination, for failing to report an allegation of sexual misconduct or for coercing or threatening another person to submit inaccurate, incomplete, or untruthful information with the intent to alter a report. The LPSO takes its PREA responsibilities very seriously in order to ensure public safety, secure correctional facilities and a safe environment for all offenders.



LAFOURCHE PARISH
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHERIFF CRAIG WEBRE

Facility Administrators can be contacted by email address which can be found at online at **LPSO.net**.

The Warden and/or Assistant Warden of the Lafourche Parish Correctional Complex can be reached at **(985) 449-4458**.

The Warden and/or Assistant Warden of the Lafourche Parish Transitional Work Program can be reached at **(985) 537-9650**. A meeting with facility administrators can be held at **1156 Hwy 90 East in Raceland, LA 70394**. Requests made in writing can be sent to the same address.

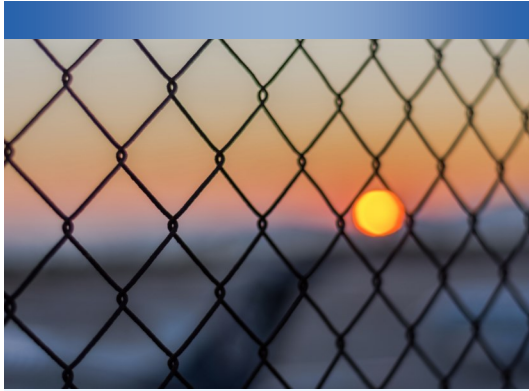
Anonymous reports can be made to Crime Stoppers Bayou Region at **1-800-743-7433**, online at **CrimeStoppersBR.org** or via the **Bayou Tips** mobile app.

Reports can also be filed with the **LPSO Internal Affairs Section**
200 West 2nd Street
Thibodaux, LA 70301
Phone: (985) 449-4400



Prison Rape Elimination Act

Updated June 2022



Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was signed into law by President George W. Bush on September 4, 2003. The final regulatory standards to implement PREA went into effect on August 20, 2012.

PREA is intended to address the detection, prevention, reduction and prosecution of sexual harassment and sexual assault in all correctional facilities in the country.

PREA applies to all confinement facilities in the state. This includes all prisons, jails, police lock-ups, juvenile facilities, immigration detention centers, and court holding facilities. It also applies to all community corrections facilities including home monitoring, probation, parole and half-way houses.

What constitutes staff sexual misconduct with offenders?

Staff sexual misconduct with offenders is generally defined as any behavior or act of a sexual nature by a correctional employee (sworn or civilian, managers, administrators, supervisors, line officers, supervisors of offenders on work release), contractor, food service employee, maintenance worker, volunteer, medical or mental health staff member (clinical staff and counselors), member of the clergy, vendors, youth workers, or teachers.

Are offenders the only potential victims of sexual misconduct under PREA?

No. Sexual misconduct can target not only a person under the care and custody of any correctional authority, but also offender's family members and any other person who has official contact with the agency on behalf of offenders (lawyers, social workers, mental health professionals or victim advocates).

What are the possible dispositions of PREA reports?

There are three possible dispositions: substantiated, unsubstantiated and unfounded. Substantiated reports are those where an investigation determines that an incident did occur. Unsubstantiated reports are those where evidence is insufficient to make a final determination that an incident occurred. Unfounded reports are those where an investigation determines that an incident did not occur.

What does federal law require of each state?

Since the new regulations were published by the U.S. Attorney General in August 2012, all states are required to take a number of actions to prevent, detect, reduce and respond to sexual abuse in confinement facilities. Among these are:

- establishment of a zero-tolerance standard for sexual harassment and sexual assault;
- collection and reporting of data on prison sexual violence;
- training and education of correctional staff, contractors and volunteers about the nature of prison sexual violence, and how to prevent, detect and respond to incidents of sexual assault;
- thorough and appropriate risk assessment and screening of offenders to keep apart potential aggressors and potential victims;
- disciplining and prosecution of corrections staff who perpetrate sexual abuse against an inmate; and
- holding corrections administrators accountable for the occurrence of prison sexual violence in their facilities.

What is the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office doing?

The Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office (LPSO) has implemented a zero-tolerance policy relating to sexual violence in custody and recognizes offenders who are sexually harassed or abused as victims of a serious crime. LPSO immediately responds to allegations, fully investigates all reported incidents, pursues disciplinary action, and refers those who perpetrate such conduct for investigation and prosecution.