

2019 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 implement the PREA standards during the course of 2019. In 2019, the following actions took place:

- Conducted on-site PREA audits of juvenile detention centers, courthouse lockups, contracted juvenile and adult community residential programs
- Developed 2019 PREA training curriculum for Juvenile Residential Services (JRS) In-Service training
- Facilitated PREA Train the Trainer course for Juvenile Residential Services
- Conducted twenty-three (23) PREA In-Service training courses for 225 juvenile detention staff
- Conducted 6 PREA Pre-Service training courses for 43 juvenile detention staff
- Assisted 2 new contracted REGIONS staff-secure treatment programs with implementing the PREA Juvenile Facility Standards
- The on-line National Institute of Corrections (NIC) specialized PREA training was completed by 29 medical staff and 6 mental health staff
- New contracted medical staff completed the 2019 JRS PREA training
- Delivered initial PREA training to 115 new Judicial Marshals
- Provided refresher PREA information to all Judicial Marshals

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

- Continue conducting on-site PREA audits of juvenile detention centers, courthouse lockups, contracted juvenile and adult community residential programs
- Provide annual refresher training to Judicial Branch employees
- Secure Department of Justice certified auditor for juvenile detention center audits
- Update the Judicial Branch PREA brochure

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 2019, over 87,000 individuals were in the custody of Judicial Marshal Services.

In 2019, there were four reports of sexual harassment involving a Judicial Marshal and an individual in the custody of the Judicial Branch. One report was substantiated and three reports were unfounded.

In 2019, there was one unfounded report of detainee on detainee sexual harassment.

In 2019, there were eight 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 agency's PREA Coordinator or the highest ranking officer at the location where the alleged incident occurred to inform them of the allegation.

In 2019, there were three reports of sexual abuse or sexual harassment occurring within a Department of Correction facility that were referenced in a habeas petition filed with the Judicial Branch. In each instance, the Department of Correction PREA Coordinator was notified.

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 one case, the staff member involved was disciplined. In the other case, the staff member resigned before discipline could be imposed.

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 (NCCCHC) 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 2019, 1117 juveniles were admitted into the two juvenile detention centers.

In 2019, there was one substantiated report of sexual harassment by a contracted staff member against a juvenile.

In 2019, there were four reports of sexual abuse by a juvenile against a juvenile. Two were substantiated, one was unfounded and one investigation is currently ongoing.

In 2019, there were six reports of sexual harassment by a juvenile against a juvenile. Five were substantiated and one was 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 three reported incidents that were substantiated involving staff members. In each case, the staff member involved was either disciplined or terminated.

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Juvenile Contracted Providers

The Connecticut Judicial Branch contracts with community providers for 7 community residential programs for juveniles within its 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 2019, there were no reported incidents of sexual abuse or 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 2019, there was one unfounded report of sexual abuse by a juvenile against a staff member.

In 2019, there were two reported incidents of sexual abuse by a juvenile against a juvenile. One report was substantiated, one was unfounded.

In 2019, there were three reported incidents of sexual harassment by a juvenile against a juvenile. Two of the reports were substantiated, one was unfounded.

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 2019, 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 2019, 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 2019, there were two unfounded reports of sexual abuse by a juvenile against a juvenile.

In 2019, there were no reports of sexual harassment in this facility.

Journey House Residential Treatment Center, Mansfield

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

In 2019, 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 2019, there was one unfounded report of sexual abuse by a juvenile against a staff member.

In 2019, there were no reports of sexual harassment in this facility.

Adult Contracted Providers⁴

The Connecticut Judicial Branch contracts with community-based providers and/or has entered into Memoranda of Agreement with other state agencies for 16 programs for adults within its 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 2019, APT Foundation was recertified by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor as compliant with the PREA Standards.

In 2019, there was one unsubstantiated report of sexual abuse by a resident against a resident.

In 2019, there was one unfounded report of sexual harassment by a resident against a resident.

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 2019, Connecticut Renaissance West was recertified by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor as compliant with the PREA Standards.

In 2019, there were no reported incidents of sexual abuse or 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 2019, there were no reported incidents of sexual abuse or sexual harassment in this facility.

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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 2019 there were no reported incidents of sexual abuse or 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 2019, there were two reports of sexual abuse by a staff member against a resident. One report was unfounded. The investigation for the second report is ongoing at the time of this report.

In 2019, there were six reports of sexual harassment by a resident against a resident. Three of the reports were substantiated, two were unsubstantiated, and one was unfounded.

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 2019, there was one unsubstantiated report of sexual harassment by a staff member against a resident.

In 2019, there were no reported incidents of sexual abuse 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 2019, there were no reported incidents of sexual abuse or sexual harassment 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. It was recertified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor in 2018.

In 2019, 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 2019, there was one unfounded report of sexual abuse by a staff member against a resident.

In 2019, 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 2019, there was one substantiated report of sexual harassment by a resident against a resident.

In 2019, there were no reported incidents of sexual abuse in this facility.

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. It was recertified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor in 2018.

In 2019, there were no reported incidents of sexual abuse or 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 2019, 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 2019, there were no reported incidents of sexual abuse or 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. It was recertified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor in 2018.

In 2019, there was one substantiated report of sexual harassment by a resident against a resident.

In 2019, there were no reported incidents of sexual abuse in this facility.

Waterbury Transitional House, Waterbury

Waterbury Transitional House is a transitional housing program. Waterbury Transitional House was certified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified PREA auditor in 2016. In 2019, Waterbury Transitional House was recertified as PREA compliant by a DOJ-certified auditor.

In 2019, there were no reported incidents of sexual abuse or sexual harassment in this facility.

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 2019, there were no reported incidents of sexual abuse or sexual harassment in this facility.

