

Need help?

Sexual abuse and sexual harassment in juvenile detention centers is against the law

The Connecticut Judicial Branch has a zero tolerance policy for all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment in its facilities. This includes conduct between juveniles and conduct between juveniles and Judicial Branch staff, contractors or volunteers/interns.

If you have been subjected to or if you become subject to any form of sexual abuse or sexual harassment while in the custody of the Judicial Branch, you can report it, either verbally or in writing, to any Judicial Branch employee or detention staff. You can also report it to the Connecticut State Police, your parent or guardian, the ombudsman, a DCF worker, a judge, a probation officer or anyone else who you feel comfortable reporting it to.

What is sexual abuse?

- Any time another juvenile forcibly touches the sexual parts of your body, forces you to touch the sexual parts of their body, or forces you to have sex with them or someone else, it is against the law.
- Any time a staff member makes sexual advances, sexually touches you, or has sex with you, it is against the law. This does not include routine searches or restraints, or certain medical procedures.
- Any time you sexually touch a staff member or force them to touch you, it is against the law.

Examples include:

- Someone forcing you to have sex with them or another person to repay a debt
- Someone offering you protection in exchange for sex
- A staff person offering you a privilege or a favor in exchange for sex

What is sexual harassment?

- Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a sexual nature by one juvenile to another.
- Sexual comments or gestures made by a staff member toward a juvenile.

Examples include:

- Demeaning references to gender
- Sexual comments about your body or clothing
- Obscene language or gestures

The Judicial Branch of the State of Connecticut complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need a reasonable accommodation, in accordance with the ADA, contact a Judicial Branch employee or an ADA contact person listed at www.jud.ct.gov/ada/.

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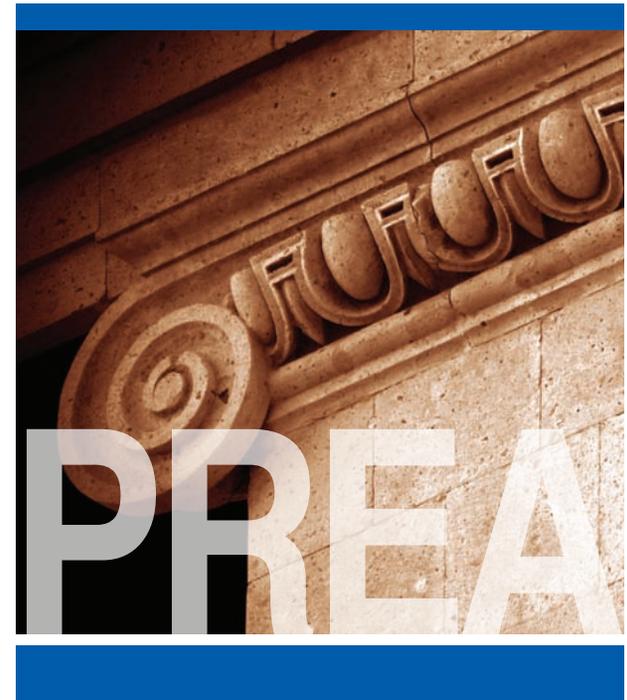
JDP-JM-212 (New 7/14)
42 U.S.C. § 15601, et seq.

www.jud.ct.gov

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment Prevention and Reporting Guidelines for Juvenile Detention

Know Your Rights!!!



It is not your fault if you were sexually abused.

How to prevent sexual abuse

- Anyone offering you favors, lending you things, or providing you protection may be setting you up for abuse or targeting you as a potential victim. **DO NOT LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU!!**
- Be aware of situations that make you feel uncomfortable. Trust your instincts. If it feels wrong, walk away or call out for a staff member. It is your right to say, “NO,” “STOP IT,” or “DO NOT TOUCH ME!”
- If you or another juvenile is being pressured for sex, tell a staff member immediately. You do not need to wait for an assault to happen before you ask for help.
- Be aware of areas where it may be hard to be seen by staff or where you would have trouble getting help if you needed it.
- Stay out of other juveniles’ rooms and do not allow other juveniles into your room.

Your rights

- The right to be free from sexual abuse and sexual harassment
- The right to be free from retaliation for reporting an incident of sexual abuse or sexual harassment
- The right to have a report of sexual abuse or sexual harassment taken seriously and investigated
- The right to outside victim advocate for emotional support services related to sexual abuse

How to report sexual abuse or sexual harassment

If you are a victim of sexual abuse or sexual harassment OR you suspect or know someone else has been sexually abused or sexually harassed OR involved in sexual misconduct with a staff member, you need to report it. A thorough and impartial investigation will be conducted.

Your options for reporting sexual abuse or sexual harassment

1. Talk to any staff member you feel comfortable with. This can be staff in detention such as a JDO, CPO, supervisor, teacher, or medical or mental health personnel.
2. Talk to a professional staff member outside of detention such as your probation officer, lawyer or public defender, DCF worker/liaison or judge.
3. File a grievance with the ombudsman. The ombudsman is an impartial individual who is here to listen to your complaints and keep you safe.
4. File a sick call slip with the medical office here in detention.
5. Contact the statewide Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Service (24 hours)

1-888-999-5545 *English*

1-888-568-8332 *Español*

What to do if you have been sexually abused

- Alert staff immediately.
- Even if you want to clean up immediately after the abuse, it is important to save the evidence.
- Do not use the bathroom, brush your teeth, shower, or change your clothes.
- Report it, even if you do not have any evidence. It does not matter when the abuse happened.
- Tell ANY staff person (JDO, CPO, supervisor, teacher, medical or mental health personnel, for example). Talk to ANY staff member you trust.
- You may talk to someone in person, file a grievance, or call someone on your phone list. It does not matter – just tell someone.
- Seek the support of a trusted friend, family member, or staff member. Whether or not you plan to report the assault, you may choose to talk to someone.
- Get victim services through mental health or medical staff or your CPO. They will know how to get services for you.

What to do if you have been sexually harassed

- Alert staff immediately.
- Tell ANY staff (JDO, CPO, supervisor, teacher, medical or mental health personnel, for example). Talk to ANY staff member you trust.

Reporting is the first step.