

Resources are available for you or for your family: Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC) PREA; confidential (information shared will not be disclosed) and non-reporting counseling line, providing an advocate to provide you with emotional support and information:

(844)744-7732 M-F 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

*Every facility must have zero tolerance for sexual abuse and harassment based on the standards.

*You have the right to report sexual abuse privately, safely and through multiple channels.

*You have the right to get help from trained medical and mental health care practitioners.

*Sexual activity between staff and an inmate can never be consensual and is always against the law.

*You have the right to be protected from sexual abuse.

No one deserves to be sexually assaulted. Know your rights.

What can you do:

If you have been sexually assaulted or if someone is pressuring you to have sex, **we encourage you to report it.** This report can be made verbally to any staff person you feel comfortable with such as a unit officer, sergeant, floor supervisor, caseworker, nurse, or a chaplain. Additionally, you can speak with a nurse, case worker, officer or any staff member if you would like additional information on how to report sexual abuse and what will happen following a report.

If you do not want to file a report in person, you can:

1. Inform a family member or a friend so they can report on your behalf
2. Call the SCSD hotline to report abuse at **(617) 704-6666**
3. Write to the Chief Family Protection and Sexual Assault Bureau; One Bulfinch Place, Suite 300, Boston, MA 02114



Sexual assault and harassment in correctional institutions is against the law. The **Suffolk County Sheriff's Department** (SCSD) will investigate all reported incidences in a professional and confidential manner.

Sexual assault is defined as any sexual activity that is not wanted, including penetration by one person or another without consent, intentional touching and/or voyeurism.

Sexual harassment includes repeated and unwanted sexual advances, request for sexual favors, verbal and obscene comments or gestures, and degrading remarks about someone's body.

The SCSD views all sexual contact between inmates/detainees or between inmates/detainees and staff as coercive and NEVER consensual.

For further information or more details please speak with a case worker.

Abusers often use threats and coercion to sexually abuse other people.

The **Prison Rape Elimination Act**, otherwise known as PREA, is a federal law which was passed unanimously by the United States Congress and signed into law in 2003 by President George W. Bush. The Act supports the elimination, reduction and prevention of sexual assault and rape in correctional systems across the country. These systems include federal, state and county facilities. PREA also applies to all other law enforcement detention facilities.

The Law establishes a **Zero Tolerance** standard for incidents of sexually abusive behavior.

The SCSD will investigate any known sexual abuse instances as PREA violations.

PREA mandates that you as an inmate have the following rights:

- Be free from sexual abuse and harassment.
- Be free from retaliation from reporting an incident.
- Be informed about the SCSD's policies and procedures for responding to incidents.

Immediately after an assault

- You have the right to a medical examination.
- The sooner you are examined after an assault, the greater your options will be for evidence collection and preventative care.
- Do not take a shower, brush your teeth, or change your clothes after an assault, it is important for the evidence collection not to do so.
- **You have the right to stop the evidence collection process or refuse to participate in any part of it at any time during the process and you will not be penalized for it.**
- You will be provided with medical care, and emotional support if needed. If you need any follow up treatment it will be provided to you as well.
- If you need any further assistance to discuss the impact of the sexual violence please ask for more information from the case worker.