

# PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT

## Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment: Prevention, Detection and Response

81-3-5

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### Policy

The Department of Children and Families has zero tolerance of all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

Consistent with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment generated by juveniles residing in or confined to a facility operated or contracted by the Department of Children and Families for the confinement of juveniles shall be referred for investigation. The medical and psychological trauma of sexual abuse or harassment shall be minimized as much as possible by prompt and appropriate health interventions and through the use of trauma screenings and assessment.

Consensual sexual contact between juveniles (regardless of age) or juveniles and adults shall not be allowed and shall be addressed by the agency and facility's disciplinary procedures. If applicable, criminal charges may be filed.

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### Procedures

Please see PREA Implementation Practice Guide for details regarding all aspects of implementation.

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### Application of Other Policies

In DCF facilities, [DCF Policy 27-3-25, "Prohibition of Sex Discrimination"](#), may also apply in these situations and, if so, must be followed concurrently. If conflicts between the reporting procedures develop, involved staff shall immediately consult with the DCF Office of Legal Affairs.

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### Legal References/ Cross Reference

[Prison Rape Elimination Act, Public Law 108-79.](#)

[United States Department of Justice, National Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Prison Rape, Final Rule 2012.](#)

DCF Policies [7-4](#), [9-1](#), [27-3-25](#); [30-9](#).

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