

2017 Annual PREA Report

Reporting Categories

| | <u>Offender on Offender Sexual Abuse</u> | <u>Staff, Contractor or Volunteer on Offender Sexual Abuse</u> | <u>Offender on Offender Sexual Harassment</u> | <u>Staff, Contractor or Volunteer Sexual Harassment</u> |
|--------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| <u>Offenses Reported</u> | 1* | 1** | 0 | 0 |

Case Resolution

| | | | |
|---------------|---|---|---|
| Substantiated | | | |
| Substantiated | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Unfounded | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Other | | | |

* Incident was investigated and forwarded to the District Attorney for review. The District Attorney found the complaint unfounded.

** Incident was investigated by the Jail Sergeant. This case was found to be unfounded.

Definitions:

- Substantiated An allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.
- Unsubstantiated An allegation that was investigated and the investigation produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether or not the event occurred.
- Unfounded An allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.
- Other An allegation in which the case is under investigation and no disposition has been assigned.

2017 Efforts in working toward Compliance with PREA

During 2017, the Vernon County Sheriff's Office completed a Compliance Summary at the request of the Department of Corrections. In completing the documentation for the Compliance Summary, we found 6 areas where we need to work toward compliance.

The areas are:

- 1) 115.13 Developing a procedure for and documentation of unannounced Supervisor rounds
- 2) 115.14 Due to building layout and WI State Law as it relates to housing 17 year olds
- 3) 115.21 Need to verify our standard for evidence collection
- 4) 115.51 We need to work on creating a contact list to consular services and Dept. of Homeland Security for inmates who are detained solely for civil immigration purposes.
- 5) 115.65 Developing a written plan for a coordinated response.
- 6) 115.87/115.89 Developing a form for the annual report

The Jail has also created a staffing plan to address 115.13.

In addition to the review, the Jail has been working on transferring the existing Jail Policy to a computer based policy through Lexipol. This procedure also includes verifying policy wording and procedure which will allow us to work toward PREA compliance.

2018 Goals in working toward Compliance with PREA

The Vernon County Sheriff's Office and Detention Center will continue to work toward PREA compliance in 2018. As of March 2018 we are finalizing numbers 3, 5 & 6 above. Our goal for the remainder of the year is to complete areas 1 and 4.

Additional goals for 2018 include:

- 1) Continue to work on the Lexipol policy conversion and its attempts to address policy and procedure issues to work toward PREA compliance.
- 2) Complete the background checks as required under 115.17
- 3) Attempt to get Sheriff's investigators training on Sexual Abuse evidence collection in confinement settings as required under 115.34.
- 4) Complete the annual report and have it posted on the Sheriff's website as required under 115.88.
- 5) March 2018 with Wisconsin Department of Corrections will be conducting a Compliance Review of our attempts to comply with PREA. We will work to fix any deficiencies found during the review.

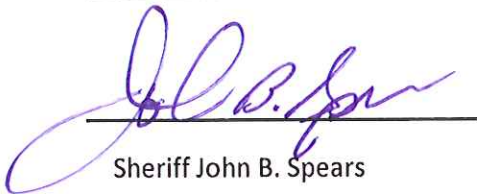
Difficulties with PREA Compliance

As we work toward PREA compliance, there is an area where we may not ever be able to comply. Under PREA 26 CFR 115.14 a youthful inmate shall not be placed in a housing unit in which the inmate will have sight, sound or physical contact with any adult through the use of a shared dayroom or other common space, shower area, or sleeping quarters.

A youthful inmate means any person under the age of 18 who is under adult court supervision and incarcerated or detained in prison or jail.

Wisconsin State Law 17-year-olds alleged to have violated criminal law are subject to prosecution as adults. As such 17-year-olds are held in County Jail. Due to our building design and population, we are not able to house 17-year-olds away from adult offenders.

Report Approved



Sheriff John B. Spears

MAR 27 2018

Date