



Scott D. Hess
SHERIFF

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COUNTY OF ORLEANS

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PREA

The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA, P.L. 108-79) was enacted to address the problem of sexual abuse of persons in the custody of U.S. correctional agencies. This act supports the elimination, reduction and prevention of sexual harassment, sexual abuse and sexual assault within the correctional system.

PREA defines "prison" quite broadly. Within the context of PREA, prison is defined as "any federal, state, or local confinement facility, including local jails, police lockups, juvenile facilities, and state and federal prisons." Thus short-term lockups, such as holding facilities and local jails regardless of size are also subject to the provisions of PREA.

The Orleans County Sheriff's Office has a zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual assault, sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Inmates, corrections staff, volunteers and collaborative partners have a right to an environment that is free from sexual harassment, sexual abuse and sexual assault.

The department will fully investigate and immediately address all allegations of sexual assault, sexual abuse and sexual harassment to include criminal and administrative sanctions as appropriate. Jail Staff, are required to immediately report any instance of suspected or observed sexual abuse, sexual assault or sexual harassment verbally to a supervisor or administrator then to document the matter in writing within 24-hours. Jail staff, are required to immediately intervene when they suspect or observe sexual abuse, sexual assault or sexual harassment.

No staff member, Inmate, volunteer, or collaborative partner will be subject to retaliation for acting in good faith to intervene in, report or document any incident of sexual abuse, sexual assault or sexual harassment.

Scott D. Wilson
Jail Superintendent
Orleans County Jail