



Texas Board of Criminal Justice PREA Ombudsman Office

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What Is PREA?

In September of 2003, the *Prison Rape Elimination Act* (PREA) was signed into law. PREA is the first national law to be passed addressing sexual abuse behind bars. Some of the components of PREA include: establishing a zero-tolerance standard for the incidence of rape in prisons in the United States; making the prevention of prison rape a top priority in each prison system; and developing and implementing national standards for the detection, prevention, reduction, and punishment of prison rape.

Who Is The PREA Ombudsman?

The PREA ombudsman was established by the 80th Legislature in 2007 (Texas Government Code § 501, Subchapter F), and is appointed by the Texas Board of Criminal Justice (TBCJ). The PREA ombudsman reports directly to the chairman of the TBCJ, and is responsible for and authorized to coordinate and oversee the Texas Department of Criminal Justice's (TDCJ) efforts to eliminate sexual abuse and sexual harassment in correctional facilities and respond to complaints or inquiries related to PREA allegations. PREA allegations include offender-on-offender or staff-on-offender sexual abuse and sexual harassment, retaliation for reporting sexual abuse and sexual harassment, and staff neglect or violation of responsibilities that may have contributed to a PREA incident in TDCJ correctional facilities.

Reporting PREA Allegations

Due to the serious nature of sexual abuse and sexual harassment, anyone with knowledge of a PREA incident that occurred in a TDCJ correctional facility is encouraged to immediately report the allegation to the unit administration, PREA ombudsman, or Office of the Inspector General (OIG).

Any offender may privately and confidentially contact the PREA ombudsman in writing regarding a PREA allegation and remain anonymous upon request. Any offender reporting a PREA allegation shall **NOT** be subjected to retaliation for reporting such an act.

Providing Helpful Information

Family and friends may also report PREA allegations on your behalf. Individuals reporting PREA allegations are encouraged to provide the following information:

- Name of the unit where the victim is assigned;
- Date and time the incident occurred;
- Name and TDCJ number of the offender victim;
- Name and TDCJ number of the alleged assailant and witnesses;
- A brief summary of the allegation; and
- Copies of any correspondence that could assist in the investigation.