

CA Advancing PREA:

Reporting Options and the Role of Rape Crisis Centers

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11:00am-12:30pm PST



Introductions



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ValorUS Mission

ValorUS is committed to preventing and ending sexual violence by advancing equity and eradicating oppression.



JDI's Mission

JDI is a health and human rights organization that seeks to end sexual abuse in all forms of detention.



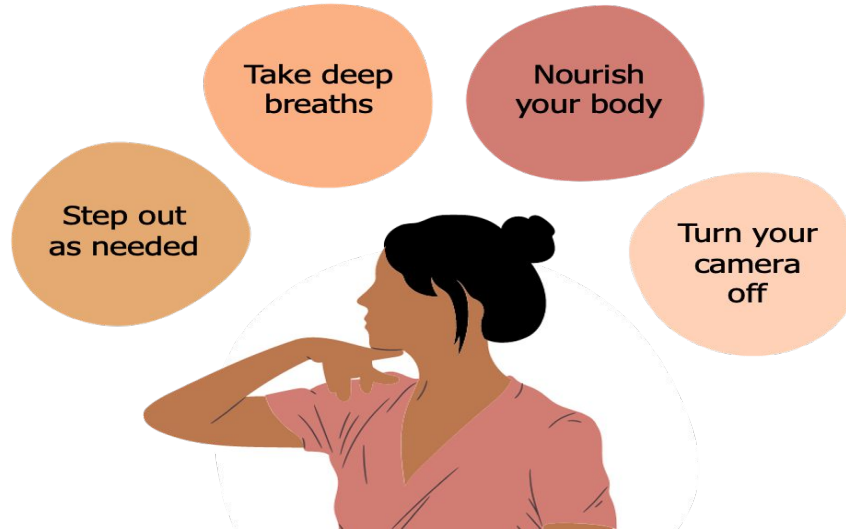
JDI's Core Belief

No matter what crime
a person may have
committed, **rape is
not part of the
penalty.**



Practice Self Care

GIVE YOURSELF
PERMISSION TO



Session Objectives



- Develop an understanding of available reporting options
- Discuss best practices when an incarcerated survivor wants to make a report
- Explore common challenges, actionable steps, and strategies for increasing agency readiness

Multiple Paths to Healing

- Reporting sexual violence is a deeply personal choice
- Reporting is not required
- Safety concerns and retaliation
- Pressure from detention staff
- Potential for limited results



Considerations

- Each situation is unique
- Advocates hold multiple relationships
- Implementation varies across systems
- Reach out for help
 - Leadership team
 - Community Orgs
 - TA Providers



In the chat

How familiar are you with the reporting options available to survivors who are incarcerated?

1

This is
brand new
to me

3

I know a
little

5

I know a
lot

PREA Standard in Focus

§ 115.51 Inmate, detainee, and resident reporting



Provide multiple ways to report

- To a staff member, contractor, or volunteer
- In writing
- To third parties
- To an outside reporting agency

Role of Rape Crisis Centers in Reporting

- Required to maintain confidentiality.
- Provide survivors with information about their reporting options via hotline or letter correspondence.
- Provide emotional support, crisis intervention, and accompaniment during forensic exam or forensic interview
- Request updates from facility staff regarding the status of the report.

Reporting Processes Inside the Facility



Inside Reporting Options

- In writing: grievance, 602 (CDCR), tablets, written note
- Verbally to staff:
 - custody staff, medical and mental health, contractors, volunteers, teachers, religious leaders

Reporting Process: Investigation

- Report is made
- Initial review
- Investigation
 - Forensic Exam
 - Investigatory Interview
- Outcomes:
 - Substantiated
 - Unsubstantiated
 - Unfounded - insufficient evidence



Inside Reporting Challenges

- Evidence collection
- Staff biases
- Literacy, language proficiency and accessibility
- How is information shared within the facility?
- Retaliation and safety
- Electronic vs. physical documentation
- Exhausting administrative remedies

Outside Reporting Agencies



Survivor Art, 2012

Outside Reporting Agencies

Determined by detention facilities and must:

- Be an entity that is separate from the detention facility
- Have the capacity to receive PREA reports from survivors or third parties
- Have the capacity to make the reports to the detention facility

Examples of Outside Reporting Agencies

- Crime Stoppers
- Police department or other law enforcement agency
- District Attorney's office
- Public Defender's office
- Child protective services agency (youth detention facilities)
- Office of the Inspector General (CDCR facilities only)

Outside Reporting Agencies

- It is the responsibility of the detention facilities to identify an outside reporting agency.
- Must not be a part of or answer to detention facilities.
- Must have a formalized MOU between detention facility and outside reporting agency
- RCCs can support detention facilities with identifying an outside reporting agency.
- RCCs can provide training to the outside reporting agency and the facility about trauma-informed, survivor-centered care.

Outside Reporting and Oversight: CDCR Facilities

Voicemail Line:

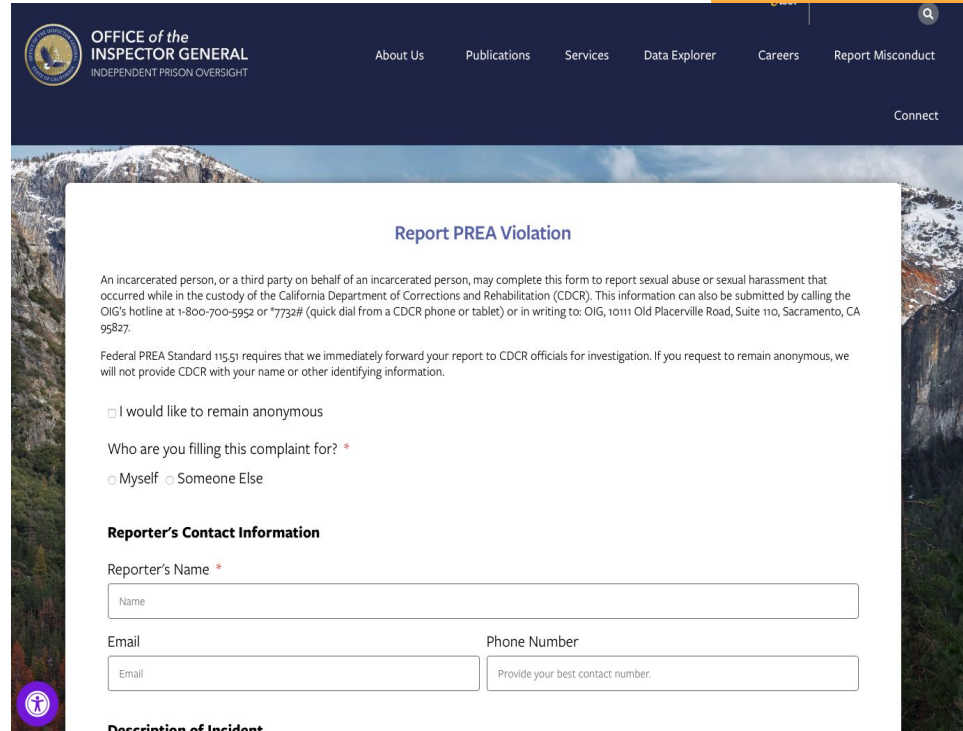
From inside CDCR: *7732#

From outside: 1-800-700-5952

Via Letter:

1011 Old Placerville Rd, Suite 110
Sacramento CA, 95827

Online Form



The screenshot shows the 'Report PREA Violation' form from the Office of the Inspector General, Independent Prison Oversight. The form is titled 'Report PREA Violation' and includes a search bar at the top right. The main content area contains the following text:

An incarcerated person, or a third party on behalf of an incarcerated person, may complete this form to report sexual abuse or sexual harassment that occurred while in the custody of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). This information can also be submitted by calling the OIG's hotline at 1-800-700-5952 or *7732# (quick dial from a CDCR phone or tablet) or in writing to: OIG, 1011 Old Placerville Road, Suite 110, Sacramento, CA 95827.

Federal PREA Standard 115.51 requires that we immediately forward your report to CDCR officials for investigation. If you request to remain anonymous, we will not provide CDCR with your name or other identifying information.

☐ I would like to remain anonymous

Who are you filling this complaint for? *

☐ Myself ☐ Someone Else

Reporter's Contact Information

Reporter's Name *

Name

Email

Phone Number

Provide your best contact number.

Description of Incident

The form is set against a background image of a mountain range. The CDCR logo is visible in the bottom left corner of the form area.

Outside Reporting and Oversight: ICE Facilities

DHS OIG

800-323-3603

Via Letter

Office of Inspector General/MAIL STOP 0305

245 Murray Lane SW

Washington, DC 20528

Website: <https://www.ice.gov/prea#report>

Report Form: <https://hotline.oig.dhs.gov/#step-1>



Office of Inspector General

DHS OIG Hotline Complaint Form

1. Complainant Information

(*) Required Information

Part I - Complainant Information

Please Select One*

I wish to:

- ☐ Option 1: Remain anonymous. It is understood that this may hinder DHS OIG's ability to thoroughly review and/or resolve the allegations in the complaint. Also the information that is provided anonymously may be referred to another agency if DHS OIG determines that action by another agency is warranted under the circumstances.
- ☐ Option 2: Disclose my identity to DHS OIG, but request that DHS OIG keep my identity confidential with respect to individuals outside DHS OIG. This selection may hinder DHS OIG's ability to thoroughly review and/or resolve the allegations in the complaint. It is also understood that, despite the request for confidentiality, it may be necessary for DHS OIG to disclose my identity to individuals outside DHS OIG if DHS OIG deems such disclosure (1) necessary during the course of DHS OIG's processing of the allegations in the complaint, or (2) otherwise required by law. DHS OIG may also decline the complaint and close it without further action, or refer the complaint to another agency with my identifying information redacted. This selection may therefore hinder the ability of another agency to thoroughly review and/or resolve the allegations in the complaint.
- ☐ Option 3: Disclose my identity to DHS OIG and authorize DHS OIG to further disclose my identity outside DHS OIG on a need-to-know basis.

Outside Reporting and Oversight: Federal Facilities

Hotline (English and Spanish):

800- 869-4499

Via Letter

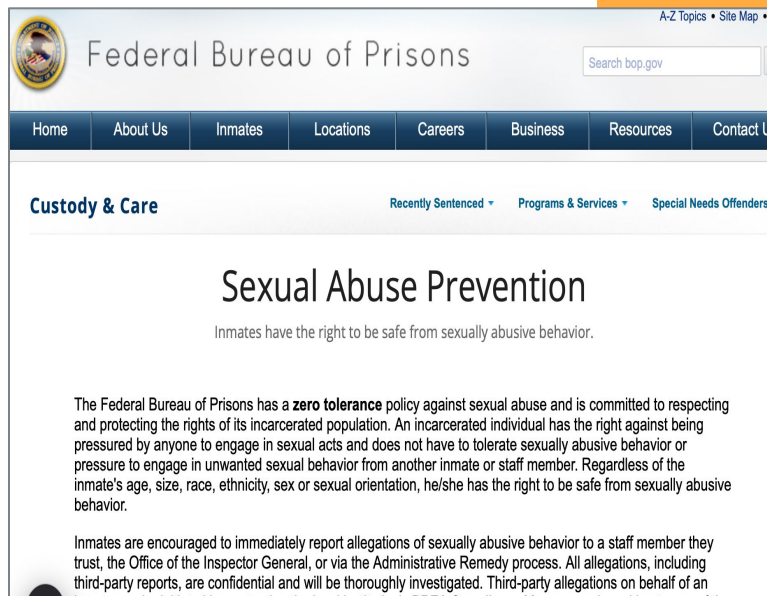
Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Room
4706

Washington, DC 20530

Website: www.usdoj.gov/oig/

Email: inspector.general@usdoj.gov



Outside Reporting and Oversight: County Jails

- Frequently mistake RCCs for Outside Reporting Agency
- Find out what your county jails have in place
- RCC may have to provide training, education, and cultivate buy in
- Lead with shared vision of safety

Third Party Reporting



Third Party Reporting

Determined by survivors and include the following:

- A friend
- A family member
- An acquaintance
- A trusted community member



Third Party Reporting

Third Party makes initial report

- By calling the facility
- By calling an Outside Reporting Agency
- May only be involved in initial report
- May prompt facility action

Summary

- Reporting can be part of healing, but is not required
- Survivor Agency and Safety is crucial
- Rape Crisis Centers cannot be the Outside Reporting Agency
- Survivors can report to anyone they feel comfortable telling inside the facility
- Survivors can report to an outside reporting agency or a third party

Action Item: Outside Reporting

- Find out who outside reporting agency is
 - Search Online
 - Call facility and use questions to your advantage
- Connect with outside reporting agency
- Provide training to outside reporting agency about trauma informed care

Action Item: Support Facility in establishing Outside Reporting

- Utilize community resources and established relationships.
- Collect a list of reporting options to share with your local detention facility.
- Incorporate the options into existing PREA outreach materials.



Action Item: Capacity

Assess RCC capacity and knowledge

- Develop initial training plan for all staff and volunteers
- Develop ongoing and refresher training
- Create central place for information

Action Item: Schedule TA!

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Resources



PREA Standards In Focus

Standard in Focus

Reporting

§ 115.51, 115.151, 115.251, 115.351 Inmate Reporting

- (a) The agency shall provide multiple internal ways for inmates to privately report sexual abuse and sexual harassment, retaliation by other inmates or staff for reporting sexual abuse and sexual harassment, and staff neglect or violation of responsibilities that may have contributed to such incidents.
- (b) The agency shall also provide at least one way for inmates to report abuse or harassment to a public or private entity or office that is not part of the agency, and that is able to receive and immediately forward inmate reports of sexual abuse and sexual harassment to agency officials, allowing the inmate to remain anonymous upon request. Inmates detained solely for civil immigration purposes shall be provided information on how to contact relevant consular officials and relevant officials at the Department of Homeland Security.
- (c) Staff shall accept reports made verbally, in writing, anonymously, and from third parties and shall promptly document any verbal reports.
- (d) The agency shall provide a method for staff to privately report sexual abuse and sexual harassment of inmates.

Purpose

- To ensure that inmates and staff can report sexual abuse—regardless of who the perpetrator is and regardless of what other dangers they may face for doing so—by providing them with multiple avenues to report, including an avenue outside the facility, so that even if the abuser is someone directly supervising that inmate or higher up in the authority chain, or a staff person or inmate who might retaliate against that inmate, the victim still has a safe way to report. Thus, sexual abuse is always reported, which in turn is a deterrent of future abuse.

PREA, OUTSIDE REPORTING & THE ROLE OF RAPE CRISIS CENTERS

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Standards require that every corrections agency provide avenues for prisoners to report sexual abuse, sexual harassment, or retaliation to a separate outside reporting agency. Pursuant to Cal. Evid. Code §1035.4 victim advocates are the only professionals who are not mandated reporters of sexual abuse and sexual harassment in detention in California. Rape crisis centers should never agree to be a corrections agency's outside reporting agency. This sheet will help you understand the proper role for rape crisis centers as it relates to reporting sexual abuse and harassment of people who are incarcerated.

UNDERSTANDING EVERYONE'S ROLE IN THE REPORTING PROCESS

RAPE CRISIS CENTERS ARE:

- Required to maintain confidentiality
- Responsible for providing emotional support and crisis intervention to survivors of sexual abuse and harassment
- Able to provide survivors with information about their reporting options via hotline or letter correspondence
- Able to support corrections agencies with identifying an outside reporting agency
- Able to provide training to the outside reporting agency and the facility about trauma-informed, survivor-centered care

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN OUTSIDE REPORTING AGENCY AND RCC COUNSELING HOTLINE

Establishing an outside reporting agency differs from setting up a confidential counseling hotline with your rape crisis center. An outside reporting agency is a pre-established agency that receives and immediately forwards reports of sexual abuse and harassment to facility officials, allowing the survivor to remain anonymous upon request. It is important that facility officials understand the difference between a reporting line and your rape crisis center's confidential counseling line, especially when providing information and referrals to the people in their custody.

Feedback Survey



2025 CA Adv PREA: Reporting Options and the Role of Rape Crisis Centers

Thank you for participating in the 2025 CA Adv PREA: Reporting Options and the Role of Rape Crisis Centers webinar. Please complete this survey to help inform our technical assistance and future webinar development.

jsinor@valor.us [Switch account](#)



Not shared

* Indicates required question

The training was relevant to my needs. *

- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly agree

The training material was easy to follow. *

- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Neutral

Additional Resources

- ValorUS

valor.us

- Just Detention International

justdetention.org

- PREA Resource Center

prearesourcecenter.org

QUESTIONS?

