

Zero Tolerance

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) is a federal law that was created to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment against inmates. The St. Charles County Department of Corrections (SCCDOC) has a **Zero Tolerance Policy** for sexual abuse and sexual harassment. This means that **YOU** have the right to be free from sexual abuse and sexual harassment by anyone at this facility, including another inmate, staff member, volunteer, or contractor. No one has the right to sexually abuse or sexually harass you. **No one.**

What is sexual abuse?

Forced or coerced sexual intercourse or sexual contact when the victim does not consent or is unable to consent or refuse. This may include the use of fear or threat of physical violence, psychological intimidation, bullying, and physical force. It also can include incidents of penetration by a foreign object.

What is sexual harassment?

Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature, including demeaning references to gender, sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing, or obscene language or gestures.

What is voyeurism?

Invasion of privacy of an inmate by a staff member, volunteer, or contractor for reasons *unrelated to official job duties.*

**no
tolerance**

The SCCDOC does not tolerate any form of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. The goal of this facility is to keep all inmates safe. The SCCDOC will hold accountable any persons found to have committed any form of sexual abuse or sexual harassment against another person.

If any of the information presented here is confusing, or you have questions about something that may be happening to you, ask a staff member you trust or submit any questions to the PREA Administrator via the kiosk.

Prison Rape Elimination Act (**PREA**)

**Zero Tolerance for Sexual Abuse
and Sexual Harassment**

St. Charles County Department of Corrections
301 N. Second St., St. Charles, MO 63301
sccmo.org/Corrections
636-949-3003



**ST. CHARLES COUNTY
CORRECTIONS**

Right to Report

If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual abuse or sexual harassment, the SCCDOC wants to know. We want you to report right away. Why?

- We want to keep you safe; it is our job. It is your right to be free from sexual abuse and sexual harassment.
- We want to investigate the reported incident.
- We want to hold the perpetrator accountable for his/her actions.
- We want to provide you with relevant information and support services.

How to Report

The SCCDOC offers multiple ways to report sexual abuse and sexual harassment:

- Report to *any* staff member, verbally or in writing. You may simply tell someone, write it down on paper, or send a message on the housing unit kiosk.
- Report to the PREA Administrator via the housing unit kiosk.
- Tell a family member, friend, legal counsel, or anyone else outside the facility. They can report on your behalf by calling **636-949-3003**.

Failure to Report

Anyone who engages in, fails to report, or knowingly condones sexual abuse and sexual harassment of an inmate will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including possible termination, even for the first offense, and may be subject to criminal prosecution.

What to Do If You Have Been Sexually Abused

- Tell a staff member as soon as possible.
- Seek medical attention BEFORE you shower, eat, drink, change clothing, brush your teeth, or use the bathroom.
- Share as much information as possible when answering questions to assist with the investigation.

Examples of Voyeurism

- Peering at an inmate who is using a toilet to perform bodily functions.
- Requiring an inmate to expose his/her buttocks, genitals, or breasts.
- Taking pictures of an inmate's naked body or of an inmate performing bodily functions.

Emotional Support Services

The SCCDOC offers mental health counseling to all inmates in need. Additionally, if you have experienced sexual abuse or sexual harassment outside the SCCDOC and would like someone else to talk to, you may call **Safe Connections: 314-531-2003**.

- Safe Connections is a community organization that offers a 24-hour crisis helpline designed to serve survivors of intimate partner violence and/or sexual assault.
- The call is free, and the information in the call is confidential, except in instances of child or elder abuse or if you indicate the intent to harm yourself or anyone else.

Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment Awareness

A victim is never to blame, but the information below may help you lower your risk of being sexually abused or harassed.

- Pay attention to your surroundings.
- Carry yourself in a confident manner at all times.
- Do not accept gifts or favors from others. They usually come with "strings attached" or future paybacks, including sexual favors.
- Do not accept an offer from another inmate to be your protector or "friend."
- Find a staff member with whom you feel comfortable discussing your fears and concerns. Report to him/her if you feel threatened. If you cannot find a staff member, send a message on the housing unit kiosk.
- Be alert! Do not use contraband such as drugs or alcohol as they will weaken your ability to be alert and make good choices.
- Be direct and firm when others ask you to do things that you do not want to do.
- Do not give mixed messages to others regarding your wishes for sexual activity.
- Choose your acquaintances wisely.