

Ohio | Department of
Youth Services



Ohio Department of Youth Services
Office of Quality Assurance and Improvement
30 West Spring Street, 5th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Ohio Department of Youth Services

Youth Safety Guide



What you need to know about
Staying Safe
&
Taking Action

PREA
Prison Rape Elimination Act

SO, HOW WILL THIS BOOKLET HELP ME STAY SAFE?

This booklet gives you important information about your safety in Department of Youth Services facilities. Youth and staff safety is one of the most important values of DYS.

It also tells you how to:

- Be safe in ODYS facilities.
- Get help if you are sexually abused/assaulted or sexually harassed.
- Take the right steps to report if you are sexually abused/assaulted or sexually harassed.

Whether you are living in a juvenile correctional facility or in the community, the possibility always exists that another person may sexually abuse/assault or sexually harass you.

It is wrong for anyone to threaten or hurt another person. Everyone deserves to be safe!

WHAT IS THE PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT ?

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was passed in 2003 with unanimous support from both parties in Congress. The purpose of the act was to “provide for the analysis of the incidence and effects of prison rape in Federal, State, and local institutions and to provide information, resources, recommendations and funding to protect individuals from prison rape.”

Rape Crisis and Victim Advocacy Organizations

Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility (CHJCF)

Cleveland Rape Crisis Center

24 hour Hotline — (216) 619-6192

526 Superior Avenue, Suite 1400, Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Office Phone: (216) 619-6195

To call from your dorm/unit dial: *1965#

Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility (IRJCF)

Stark County American Red Cross

24 hour Rape Crisis Hotline - (330) 452-1111

408 Ninth Street SW, Canton, Ohio 44707

Office Phone: (330) 453-0146

To call from your dorm/unit dial: *1963#

Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility (CJCF)

Transitions/Haven House of Pickaway County

24 hour Crisis Line - (740) 477-9113

1180 N. Court Street, Suite G

Circleville, Ohio 43113

Office Phone: (740) 474-9430

To call from your dorm/unit dial: *1964#

All youth calls are subject to monitoring. DYS must report all incidents of alleged sexual assault & sexual abuse to the appropriate Children Services Agency & the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

If Sexual Harassment Happens to Me...

If you are in an DYS facility and have been sexually harassed, it is important that you do the following:

- ◆ Report the Sexual Harassment to a facility staff member.
- ◆ The staff member will separate you from the harasser, and you will get to speak to staff in Behavioral Health Services about what happened.

What Will Happen If I Sexually Abuse/ Assault or Sexually Harass Someone?

- ◆ DYS staff or the police will investigate the allegation, and you may receive criminal charges for your actions. If you are found guilty, you could face more time in DYS or be placed in an adult correctional facility depending on your age and the type of charges filed.
- ◆ If you have trouble controlling your actions, you can seek help so that you do not harm anyone.
- ◆ Also, remember that if you make a false report, you will be held accountable & could face new charges or loss of privileges.

Staying Safe

Promoting safety is not only what staff members do, but what you, as a youth must do. Remember sexual harassment/abuse/assault is NEVER the fault of the person being harassed/abused. Here are some things you can do to try and help yourself remain safe.

Where you are.

Avoid being isolated away from the main group where staff members can't see you. Position yourself in plain view. Sexual abuse/assault and sexual harassment happen more often when a youth is isolated and alone with another person than when the youth is part of a group.

Who you tell private information to.

Youth have been known to use this information to get another youth to do something they don't want to.

Situations that make you feel uncomfortable.

Trust your gut feeling. If a situation feels wrong, it most likely is. Work to get yourself out of the situation and then report the situation to a staff member.

Special attention someone may be giving just to you.

This may be favors, romantic or sexual advances, gestures or talk. This includes sharing secrets. You need to report this to a staff member.

INTRODUCTION

While you are in DYS custody, it is our goal to make sure you stay safe and free from sexual abuse, sexual assault and sexual harassment.

DYS has a ZERO Tolerance for Sexually Abusive, Sexually Assaultive and Sexually Harassing Behaviors.

What does this mean for me ?

YOUR RIGHTS

You have the right to be free from Sexual Abuse/assault & Sexual Harassment. You also have the right to be free from retaliation for reporting incidents of sexual abuse/assault & sexual harassment.

HOW TO REPORT

If you or someone you

know have been sexually abused, sexually assaulted or sexually harassed at your facility, you need to report it immediately. Reporting can sometimes be hard to do, but it will make sure that you and others are safe from harm.

Different Ways to Report

- ◆ Tell a staff person immediately
- ◆ Write a grievance
- ◆ Call the Tip-Line 855-577-7714
- ◆ Call the Legal Assistance Program (LAP) collect at 1-614-466-5394
- ◆ Write a letter or note and give it to staff
- ◆ Call a Rape Crisis Advocate

All facility staff know what to do if you have been harmed and how to help you become safe.

If Sexual Abuse, or Sexual Assault Happens....

If you are in an DYS facility and have been sexually abused or sexually assaulted, it is important that you do the following:

- ◆ Report the incident.
- ◆ Staff will separate you from the abuser and make sure you get medical attention immediately. You will also be able to talk to a Behavioral Health Services staff member to get further help.
- ◆ The following steps help save evidence so DYS can take action against the person who is alleged to have abused you.

Until staff can meet with you, follow these steps to help save evidence:



DO NOT Shower or wash

DO NOT eat or drink

DO NOT use the restroom

DO NOT brush your teeth

DO NOT change your clothes