

PREA

What is PREA?

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 rape.” (Prison Rape Elimination Act. 2003). In addition to creating a mandate for significant research from the Bureau of Justice Statistics and through the National Institute of Justice, funding through the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the National Institute of Corrections supported major efforts in many state correctional, juvenile detention, community corrections and jail systems.

PREA and North Iowa Juvenile Detention Services

NIJDS has a zero-tolerance policy relating to the sexual abuse or sexual harassment of a student and will cooperate in the investigation and prosecution of anyone involved in the sexual abuse, assault or sexual harassment of a student at this facility. The primary responsibility of NIJDS employees is student safety.

North Iowa Juvenile Detention Services investigates each incident of alleged or reported sexual abuse, sexual assault or sexual harassment to the fullest extent possible in cooperation with the state. NIJDS also prohibits retaliation against anyone who makes a report of sexual abuse, sexual assault or sexual harassment.

How to report:

Inform Staff Supervisor, Program Coordinator, Director, Medical Staff or a Teacher and they will/can report allegations of sexual abuse, sexual harassment and retaliation by contacting one of the following:

- NIJDS PREA Coordinator (319) 239-4566
- Iowa Sexual Abuse Hotline 1 (800) 284-7821
- Iowa Department of Human Services 1 (800) 362-2178

A parent or legal guardian of a child shall be allowed to file a grievance regarding allegations of sexual abuse including appeals on behalf of their child. Such a grievance shall not be conditioned upon the child agreeing to have the request filed on their behalf.

All criminal investigations will be handled by the Iowa Department of Human Services – Department of Inspections and Appeals and by Black Hawk County Law Enforcement.