



## Cameron County Jail PREA/Sexual Assault Jail Policy

- I. **Purpose:** Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) covers incidents of both staff sexual misconduct and detainee on detainee sexual abuse. The purpose of this Policy is to eliminate sexual assault by inmates on inmates as well as all staff, contractors and volunteers or interns sexual misconduct on inmates.
- II. **Policy:** It is the policy of the agency to provide a safe, humane, and appropriately secure environment, free from threat of sexual assault for all inmates, by maintaining a program of prevention, detection, response, investigation, and tracking of all alleged and substantiated sexual assaults. This agency will have zero tolerance for incidences of sexual assault within its facilities.
- III. **Procedure:**
  - A. During facility orientation information will be provided to each detainee about sexual abuse, sexual assault and sexual misconduct. Designated staff will communicate the information verbally, in writing and in a language/manner that is clearly understood by the offender. Information provided will include, but is not limited to:
    - a. Agency zero tolerance stance
    - b. Self-protection methods
    - c. Prevention and intervention
    - d. Treatment and counseling
    - e. Reporting procedures
    - f. Protection against retaliation
  - B. Detainees will be screened immediately upon entering the jail facility by intake officer (Initial Intake PREA Screening Form) of processing for potential

vulnerabilities or tendencies of acting out with sexually aggressive behavior, followed by a Medical PREA Screening form. Housing assignments shall be made in accordance with the classification policy.

- C.** Detainees identified as high risk with a history of assaultive behavior and detainees identified as a high risk for sexual victimization shall be assessed by a mental health or other qualified professional. Those identified as high risk will be identified, monitored and counseled in accordance with the mental health services policy.
- D.** Sexual contact between staff and detainees, volunteer or contracted personnel and detainees, regardless of consensual status, is prohibited and subject to administrative and criminal sanctions. Reporting of such instances will follow the procedures outlined in the Cameron County Sexual Harassment Policy.
- E.** Prisoners may report incidents of sexual abuse/threats through any medium including the confidential grievance procedures. Where an inmate notifies a staff member that staff member is obligated under this policy to forward this complaint through the chain of command in writing or by picking up any inmate phone and dialing 1-6. Failure to report such incidents shall result in disciplinary or criminal action.
- F.** All reports of sexual abuse/threats will be fully investigated by Internal Affairs or the designated Internal Affairs person and the Jailer kept informed through written reports.
- G.** Victims of sexual assault are to be separated from his/her assailant and referred to the appropriate medical facilities or professionals for examination to determine the extent of physical injury. With the victims consent the examination includes collection of evidence from the victim using an approved kit.
- H.** Provision is made for testing for sexually transmitted diseases and counseling as appropriate. Treatment and follow-up for sexually transmitted diseases are offered.
- I.** An evaluation by a mental health professional shall assess the need for crisis intervention counseling and long-term follow-up.