

## Support

- + Treatment and counseling is available. Staff can aid in securing behavioral health treatment upon request.
- + The facility will provide all residents with access to outside advocates for support related to sexual abuse, to include mailing addresses, telephone numbers, hotline numbers, as well as local, state and national victim advocacy or rape crisis organizations.

### Sexual Abuse Resource List

#### Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence

96 Pitkin St, East Hartford, CT 06108  
1-888-999-5545 (English)  
1-888-568-8332 (Español)

#### Safe Haven

29 Central Ave, Waterbury, CT 06702  
203-753-3613

#### St. Mary's Hospital

203-709-6000

#### State of CT Office of Victim Advocate

860-550-6632

#### National Sexual Violence Resource Center

827-739-3895

#### Rape/Abuse Incest National Network

1-800-656-4673

#### Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup>*Voyeurism* is defined as an invasion of privacy of an inmate, detainee, or resident by a staff person for reasons unrelated to official duties, such as peering at an inmate who is using a toilet in his or her cell to perform bodily functions; requiring an inmate to expose his/her buttocks, genitals, breasts; or taking images of all or part of an inmate's naked body or of an inmate performing bodily functions.

<sup>2</sup>*Third party* is defined as fellow residents, staff members, family members, attorneys, and outside advocates.

<sup>3</sup>Checklist provided by the Arizona Department of Corrections.

<sup>4</sup>All content within this brochure was obtained from the PREA Essentials Guide and the PREA Community Confinement Standards: National Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Prison Rape Under the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)



# PREA Prison Rape Elimination Act

[WWW.WELLMORE.ORG](http://WWW.WELLMORE.ORG)

**TO MAKE A REPORT, CALL:**

**PRIVATE MAILBOX (203) 756-7287 EXT. 7142**

**MORRIS HOUSE (203) 574-3986 \*PRESS 300\***

**THERAPEUTIC SHELTER (203) 574-1419**

**\*PRESS 300\***

### What is PREA?

**The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)** was enacted as federal law in 2003, and was created to eliminate sexual abuse in correctional and community confinement settings. This act identifies twelve main areas of importance that our facility takes seriously and provides regulations and protocols for all areas listed. Residents, staff, contractors, volunteers/interns, and visitors are encouraged to inquire about more detailed information regarding each subject area as desired. They include:

- ✚ Prevention Planning
- ✚ Responsive Planning
- ✚ Training and Education
- ✚ Screening for Risk of Sexual Victimization and Abusiveness
- ✚ Reporting
- ✚ Official Response Following an Inmate Report
- ✚ Investigations
- ✚ Discipline
- ✚ Medical and Mental Care
- ✚ Data Collection and Review
- ✚ Audits and State Compliance
- ✚ LGBTQI and Gender-Nonconforming Residents
- ✚ Cultural Issues

**There is Zero Tolerance of sexual abuse and sexual harassment at any Wellmore locations.**

**Every resident has the right to be free from sexual assault and sexual harassment.**

### How to report

There are multiple ways for *residents* to privately report any experience with sexual abuse and/or sexual harassment, to include acts of abuse or harassment, retaliation by other residents or staff for reporting abuse or harassment, and staff neglect or violation of responsibilities that may have contributed to such incidents:

- ✚ Reports may be made verbally, in writing, anonymously, and from third parties<sup>2</sup> to any Wellmore staff and/or the Wellmore Program Manager, or PREA Compliance Officer
- ✚ Private line and voice mailbox for PREA Compliance Officer Christopher Desroches (203) 756-7287 (Dial Extension 7142 once Wellmore Voice message begins) *Note: Program Staff don't answer this line. Leave message.*
- ✚ Residents may leave a private voice message in a PREA-designated voice mailbox for the Program Manager (203)574-1419. Program staff will answer this number. Ask to be transferred to extension 300.
- ✚ Residents are provided with resource lists that provides alternative options for reporting and/or emotional support;
- ✚ Contact local law enforcement directly 911 or (203) 574-6920
- ✚ DMHAS Director of Community Services Division - 860-418-6946
- ✚ Dial 211 or Adult Crisis Telephone Intervention and Options Network at 1-800.467.3135. Both numbers will allow you to remain anonymous upon request.
- ✚ Residents may always request gender-specific support and/or any other technical and/or educational support when needed to file a complaint.
- ✚ *Staff members, contractors, visitors, volunteers/interns and third-party reporters should speak directly with the Program Manager on site or call the PREA Coordinator and/or the Vice President of Adult Services with any concerns of harassment of a resident. Reports may be made verbally, in writing and/or anonymously.*

**It is the expectation of the staff that all residents have equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from all steps taken by this agency to prevent, detect and respond to sexual abuse sexual harassment.**

- ✚ Possible responses experienced following an attack<sup>3</sup>
  - Contracting diseases;
  - Physical and medical complications
  - Emotional turmoil or distress, and/or Post traumatic stress disorder
  - Depression and thoughts of suicide
  - Increased anxiety or constant worry about safety
  - Disapproval from family members and loved ones
  - Personal discomfort, including feelings of shame
  - Difficulty with boundaries
  - Substance abuse
  - Feelings of powerlessness, mistrust, betrayal, fear or humiliation
  - Greater susceptibility for further victimization
  - or guilt

#### **Agency support when an attack happens**

- ✚ The person assaulted will be separated immediately from the identified attacker.
- ✚ A full mental health assessment will be conducted, and additional support and resources provided as indicated.
- ✚ A full investigation will be immediately initiated and conducted by the Waterbury Police Department.
- ✚ A referral will be made for a full medical examination with trained professionals and designated medical personnel at St. Mary's Hospital.

## **Definitions to Know**

**Sexual abuse** is defined in the following ways:

- ✚ Abusive acts occur between clients, between staff and clients, contract workers or privately hired workers that are on site, official visitors and/or volunteers and interns that might be on site.
- ✚ Abusive acts occur when the victim does not consent, is coerced, is threatened in overt or implied manners, and/or is unable to consent or refuse.
- ✚ Abusive acts *between* residents may include the following actions:
  - Contact between the penis and vulva or penis and anus, including penetration, however slight;
  - Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva or anus;
  - Penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person, however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or other instrument; and/or
  - Any other intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or the buttocks of another person, excluding contact incidental to a physical altercation.

- ✚ Abusive acts *towards* a resident *by* a staff member, contractor, or volunteer/intern may include the following actions:
  - Contact between the penis and vulva or penis and anus, including penetration, however slight;
  - Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva or anus;
  - Contact between the mouth and any body part where the staff member, contractor, or volunteer/intern has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire;
  - Penetration of the anal or genital openings, however slight, by a hand, finger, object or other instrument, that is unrelated to official duties or where the staff member, contractor, volunteer/intern has the intent to abuse, arouse or gratify sexual desire;
  - Any other intentional contact, either directly or through the clothing, of or with the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or the buttocks, that is unrelated to official duties or where the staff member, contractor, or volunteer/intern has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire;
  - Any attempt, threat, or request by a staff member, contractor, volunteer/intern to engage in the activities described by the five previous statements;
  - Any display by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer/intern of his or her uncovered genitalia, buttocks, or breast in the presence of an inmate, detainee, or resident, and
  - Voyeurism<sup>1</sup> by a staff member, contractor, volunteer/intern.

**Sexual harassment** is defined as:

- ✚ Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by one inmate, detainee, or resident directed toward another; and
- ✚ Repeated verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to an inmate, detainee, or resident by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer/intern, including demeaning references to gender, sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing, or obscene language or gestures.

**Remember, sexual abuse and/or harassment can affect any person, regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation and/or disability!**

**Immediate steps to take if an attack happens**

- ✚ First and foremost, get to a safe space.
- ✚ Report the attack immediately. The longer it takes to report an attack, the greater challenge it becomes to collect evidence and initiate an investigation.
- ✚ Do not shower, brush your teeth, smoke, eat, drink, use the restroom or change clothes. This may destroy evidence needed for an investigation.
- ✚ Request immediate medical attention to determine the level and type of injury received. This may include physical injuries and/or exposure to sexually transmitted diseases.
- ✚ Request emotional support as this process unfolds.

