

Disclosures

Disclosing sexual assault is a very difficult experience. For an inmate who discloses, the usual feeling of guilt, shame, and fear of being judged may be compounded with concerns for safety, health, and the future. Please keep the following things in mind when working with a victim.

Rape is never the victims fault. Anyone can be a victim of sexual assault.

Do not be judgmental. Avoid questioning a victim about choices he or she made or actions he or she took. Hindsight is 20/20, and it is unfair to blame victims for decisions they made in the midst of a trauma.

Actively listen to the victim. Acknowledge what he or she is saying.

Put all biases aside. Your role is to listen and respond by providing safety, health, and medical needs for the alleged victims.

DID YOU KNOW?

90 to 95% of men who are raped do no report it! Why?

They may feel:

- Sense of discomfort in others
- Be embarrassed
- Think it admits weakness
- Fear more abuse
- Think nobody will believe them

Sexual assault is a crime of violence, power, and control, not of passion and sexual desire

52% of all females have experiences some sort of sexual victimization

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Polk County Sheriff's Office

Sexual Assault Awareness

STOP sexual assault before it begins.... START with knowledge.

Creating a culture of safety at the Polk County Sheriff's Office



Polk County Sheriff's Office.

Phone: 515.323.5495

Introduction

The Polk County Sheriff's Office is committed to prevention of sexual assault, and promotes the safety and protection of all inmates. This brochure provides basic information about sexual assault and PCSO policies. This information will help you to recognize and help victims, prevent assaults from happening, and ensure perpetrators are held accountable for their actions. PCSO policies are consistent with the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).

Procedures

If you, as a staff member, know or suspect that there has been a sexual assault, you must notify the appropriate authority:

- Staff who report to shift commanders must notify them of the alleged assault. All other staff must notify the PREA team directly (515)323-5495. Actual voice contact must be made with a report.

- PREA TEAM MEMBERS

Officer Karina Obranovic (PREA Investigator)

Sgt Jeff Caskey (PREA Manager)

What is Sexual Assault?

Sexual Assault is any type of sexual contact involving two or more people when at least one of the involved people does not consent.

Sexual contact includes:

- Sexual fondling of a person
- Sexual assault with an object
- Oral sex
- Contact between penis and vulva/anus

Consent is no present if:

- Sexual contact is forced or against a person's will
- There is fear or threat of physical violence or bodily injury
- The victim is by law too young or mentally or physically incapable of consenting

Signs that someone may have been sexually assaulted

Physical symptoms may include:

- Change in sleep patterns
- Marked increase/decrease in appetite
- Poor concentration
- Feeling/acting numb or withdrawn
- Easily startled, "jumpy".

Emotional reactions may include:

- Depression
- Guilt/self blame
- Anger
- Anxiety
- Fear

Behavioral Reactions may include:

- Change in hygiene
- Acting out-trying to be put in segregation
- Requesting/refusing to change rooms
- Requesting law work for sexually transmitted diseases
- Hurting oneself
- Suicidal thoughts and/or attempts