

**BRAZOS VALLEY COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

**BOARD POLICY  
SECTION 600: CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Policy No. 610

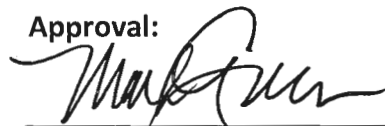
**Subject: PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT (PREA)**

**Original Issue Date:** September 2013

**Revised Date:** April 2017

**Reviewed Date(s):**

**Approval:**



\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Board of Directors

4/13/2017

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Date

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**Policy Statement**

It is the policy of the Board of Directors of the Brazos Valley Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse (BVCASA) to comply with all aspects of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).

It is the policy of BVCASA to protect persons under agency control or supervision from all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. BVCASA has a zero tolerance policy and investigates all allegations of sexual abuse and harassment whether reported by staff, client, family member, Chaplain, contractor, volunteer, member of the public or any other source. BVCASA investigates allegations against staff members with the same vigilance it investigates allegations against clients. It takes a proactive approach to preventing sexual abuse and sexual harassment by clients and by staff. It addresses the needs of clients who have been sexually victimized. Any and all violators of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action and criminal prosecution, as appropriate. All applicable BVCASA policies will be revised to include appropriate references to PREA requirements as outlined in this policy during annual policy reviews.

BVCASA ensures that clients with disabilities, including, but not limited to, hearing, vision, intellectual, psychiatric, or speech impairment have an equal opportunity to participate in or benefit from all aspects of the agency's efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment. BVCASA will not rely on client interpreters, readers or other types of client assistance except in limited circumstances where an extended delay in obtaining an effective interpreter could compromise the client's safety, the performance of first response duties, or the investigation of the client's allegations.

Quality improvement of PREA procedures will be achieved through the agency's Quality Improvement Program.

The Board provides for designation of an upper-level, agency-wide PREA coordinator, with sufficient time and authority to develop, implement, and oversee agency efforts to comply with PREA standards in all residential programs. Additionally, the Board empowers the Executive Director to develop procedures outlining the agency's approach to preventing, detecting, and responding to sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

Definitions, including definitions of prohibited behavior, related to implementation of PREA may be found in Policy 610, Attachment A.

**Reference:** PREA Sec. §115.211

## Policy 610, Attachment A

### DEFINITIONS

#### § 115.5 General definitions

**Agency** means the unit of a State, local, corporate, or nonprofit authority, or of the Department of Justice, with direct responsibility for the operation of any facility that confines inmates, detainees, or residents, including the implementation of policy as set by the governing, corporate, or nonprofit authority.

**Agency head** means the principal official of an agency.

**Community confinement facility** means a community treatment center, halfway house, restitution center, mental health facility, alcohol or drug rehabilitation center, or other community correctional facility (including residential re-entry centers), other than a juvenile facility, in which individuals reside as part of a term of imprisonment or as a condition of pretrial release or post-release supervision, while participating in gainful employment, employment search efforts, community service, vocational training, treatment, educational programs, or similar facility-approved programs during nonresidential hours.

**Contractor** means a person who provides services on a recurring basis pursuant to a contractual agreement with the agency.

**Detainee** means any person detained in a lockup, regardless of adjudication status.

**Direct staff supervision** means that security staff are in the same room with, and within reasonable hearing distance of, the resident or inmate.

**Employee** means a person who works directly for the agency or facility.

**Exigent circumstances** means any set of temporary and unforeseen circumstances that require immediate action in order to combat a threat to the security or institutional order of a facility.

**Facility** means a place, institution, building (or part thereof), set of buildings, structure, or area (whether or not enclosing a building or set of buildings) that is used by an agency for the confinement of individuals.

**Facility head** means the principal official of a facility.

**Full compliance** means compliance with all material requirements of each standard except for de minimis violations, or discrete and temporary violations during otherwise sustained periods of compliance.

**Gender nonconforming** means a person whose appearance or manner does not conform to traditional societal gender expectations.

**Inmate** means any person incarcerated or detained in a prison or jail.

**Intersex** means a person whose sexual or reproductive anatomy or chromosomal pattern does not seem to fit typical definitions of male or female.

**Intersex medical conditions** are sometimes referred to as disorders of sex development.

**Jail** means a confinement facility of a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency whose primary use is to hold persons pending adjudication of criminal charges, persons committed to confinement after adjudication of criminal charges for sentences of one year or less, or persons adjudicated guilty who are awaiting transfer to a correctional facility..

**Juvenile** means any person under the age of 18, unless under adult court supervision and confined or detained in a prison or jail.

**Juvenile facility** means a facility primarily used for the confinement of juveniles pursuant to the juvenile justice system or criminal justice system.

**Law enforcement staff** means employees responsible for the supervision and control of detainees in lockups.

**Lockup** means a facility that contains holding cells, cell blocks, or other secure enclosures that are: (1) Under the control of a law enforcement, court, or custodial officer; and (2) Primarily used for the temporary confinement of individuals who have recently been arrested, detained, or are being transferred to or from a court, jail, prison, or other agency.

**Medical practitioner** means a health professional who, by virtue of education, credentials, and experience, is permitted by law to evaluate and care for patients within the scope of his or her professional practice.

A **“qualified medical practitioner”** refers to such a professional who has also successfully completed specialized training for treating sexual abuse victims.

**Mental health practitioner** means a mental health professional who, by virtue of education, credentials, and experience, is permitted by law to evaluate and care for patients within the scope of his or her professional practice.

A **“qualified mental health practitioner”** refers to such a professional who has also successfully completed specialized training for treating sexual abuse victims.

**Pat-down search** means a running of the hands over the clothed body of an inmate, detainee, or resident by an employee to determine whether the individual possesses contraband.

**Prison** means an institution under Federal or State jurisdiction whose primary use is for the confinement of individuals convicted of a serious crime, usually in excess of one year in length, or a felony.

**Resident** means any person confined or detained in a juvenile facility or in a community confinement facility.

**Secure juvenile facility** means a juvenile facility in which the movements and activities of individual residents may be restricted or subject to control through the use of physical barriers or intensive staff supervision. A facility that allows resident's access to the community to achieve treatment or correctional objectives, such as through educational or employment programs, typically will not be considered to be a secure juvenile facility.

**Security staff** means employees primarily responsible for the supervision and control of inmates, detainees, or residents in housing units, recreational areas, dining areas, and other program areas of the facility.

**Staff** means employees.

**Strip search** means a search that requires a person to remove or arrange some or all clothing so as to permit a visual inspection of the person's breasts, buttocks, or genitalia.

**Substantiated allegation** means an allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.

**Transgender** means a person whose gender identity (i.e., internal sense of feeling male or female) is different from the person's assigned sex at birth.

**Unfounded allegation** means an allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

**Unsubstantiated allegation** means an allegation that was investigated and the investigation produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether or not the event occurred.

**Volunteer** means an individual who donates time and effort on a recurring basis to enhance the activities and programs of the agency.

**Youthful inmate** means any person under the age of 18 who is under adult court supervision and incarcerated or detained in a prison or jail.

**Youthful detainee** means any person under the age of 18 who is under adult court supervision and detained in a lockup.

## **§ 115.6 Definitions of Prohibited Behaviors**

**Sexual abuse** includes— (1) Sexual abuse of an inmate, detainee, or resident by another inmate, detainee, or resident; and (2) Sexual abuse of an inmate, detainee, or resident by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer.

**Sexual abuse of an inmate, detainee, or resident by another inmate, detainee, or resident** includes any of the following acts, if the victim does not consent, is coerced into such act by overt or implied threats of violence, or is unable to consent or refuse: (1) Contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, including penetration, however slight; (2)



Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva, or anus; (3) Penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person, however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or other instrument; and (4) 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.

**Sexual abuse of an inmate, detainee, or resident by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer** includes any of the following acts, with or without consent of the inmate, detainee, or resident:

(1) Contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, including penetration, however slight; (2) Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva, or anus; (3) Contact between the mouth and any body part where the staff member, contractor, or volunteer has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire; (4) Penetration of the anal or genital opening, however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or other instrument, that is unrelated to official duties or where the staff member, contractor, or volunteer has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire; (5) 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 has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire; (6) Any attempt, threat, or request by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer to engage in the activities described in paragraphs (1) through (5) of this definition; (7) Any display by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer of his or her uncovered genitalia, buttocks, or breast in the presence of an inmate, detainee, or resident, and (8) Voyeurism by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer.

**Sexual harassment** includes— (1) 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 (2) Repeated verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to an inmate, detainee, or resident by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer, including demeaning references to gender, sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing, or obscene language or gestures.

**Voyeurism** by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer means an invasion of privacy of an inmate, detainee, or resident by staff 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 or her buttocks, genitals, or breasts; or taking images of all or part of an inmate's naked body or of an inmate performing bodily functions.