

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003

Overview

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), a federal law enacted in 2003 (Public Act 108-79), was created to address the elimination and prevention of sexual abuse and sexual harassment in confinement. This includes prisons and jails, police lock-ups, residential community confinement facilities and juvenile facilities. PREA covers issues/incidents related to resident-on-resident sexual assault, resident-on-resident abusive sexual contact, staff sexual misconduct and staff sexual harassment of a resident.

PREA's goal is to have facilities implement prevention, identification, and response mechanisms that will reduce the incidence of sexual abuse and sexual harassment in confinement facilities (i.e. a zero tolerance).

CRT and PREA:

Community Renewal Team (CRT) has one (1) program that currently falls under the federal PREA mandate: Fresh Start. As a residential community confinement facility Fresh Start is required to implement/be PREA compliant. CRT and Fresh Start have a “**Zero Tolerance**” policy towards all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment of residents. To view the CRT and Fresh Start program PREA policy and procedures click on the following link:
<http://www.crtct.org/en/need-help/corrections/>.

CRT and Fresh Start are committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for staff and residents. CRT and Fresh Start policies regarding sexual misconduct apply to all residents in our confinement facility. They also apply to employees, contractors, and volunteers or interns who have direct contact with the residents in our confinement facility.

CRT and Fresh Start have established a safe environment where those who report abuse or harassment, or who cooperate with an investigation, are protected from retaliation by residents or staff. Any complaint of retaliation will be reported and investigated in accordance with the procedures described in this document.

Fresh Start Program Overview:

Fresh Start is a 6- to 12-month residential treatment program for **female offenders in recovery and their children**. Residents must be 18 years of age or older and have a history of substance abuse. Custodial mothers with children and pregnant women are given preference. Residents are supported through recovery while mastering new life skills and improving parenting. Female-centered coping skills and trauma recovery are addressed in group and individual sessions. Residents work towards independent living, continued self-reliance, and sober living.

Assessments take place at court, prisons, or at Fresh Start. The program receives referrals only through the Court Support Services Division of the Connecticut Judicial Branch.

- Number of beds: **21**
- Average Length of stay: **6 months**
- Program Manager: **Janet Rodriguez**

CRT PREA Team:

One of the requirements of PREA is the establishment of a PREA Team: 3 total members. The PREA team consists of the following CRT staff:

Staff Name	PREA Title	CRT Position	Contact Number	Email
James Pestana	PREA Coordinator	Director, Quality Assurance	860-560-5769	JimP@crtct.org
Janet Rodriguez	Primary Contact-1	Fresh Start, Program Manager	860-560-5805	rodriguezj@crtct.org
Salema Sekkal	Primary Contact-2	Human Resources, HR Generalist II	860-560-5660	sekkals@crtct.org

CRT PREA and CT Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc.:

CRT-Fresh Start established an MOU with one of the CT Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc. (CONNSAC) member programs, the YWCA New Britain. The YWCA New Britain covers Hartford and New Britain. The CONNSAC and YWCA New Britain contact information is below:

YWCA New Britain: (CONNSAC member program)

- Robin Sharp: Executive Director:
 - Office Phone: 860-225-4681 ext. 248; Cell Phone: 860-977-9574;
 - Fax: 860-826-7026;
 - Email: rsharp@ywcaneubritain.org;
 - Address: 19 Franklin Square New Britain, CT 06051;
 - YWCA website: <http://ywcaneubritain.org/>

PREA Incident Reporting:

To report incident(s) on all forms of sexual abuse or sexual harassment contact the following:

- Community Renewal Team, Inc.:
 - Call staff: 860-560-5805 ext. 229;
 - Confidential (Anonymous) Hotline: 1-866-211-8805;
 - Send a Confidential letter: CRT- Human Resources Dept.
 - 555 Windsor St. Hartford, CT 06120.



- Hartford Office for Sexual Assault Crisis Service: YWCA (CONNSAC Program Member)
 - Open by appointment only, call: 1-860-241-9217;
 - **Call the 24-hour, Toll-free Hotline for Emergency Services:**
 - English: 1-888-999-5545
 - En Español: 1-888-568-8332
- Residents can also contact their Probation Officer, Court Officials (i.e. Bail), Clergy, etc.

PREA Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's):

- **What is PREA?**

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), a federal law enacted in 2003 (Public Act 108-79), was created to address the elimination and prevention of sexual abuse and sexual harassment in confinement. This includes prison and jails, police lock-ups, residential community confinement facilities, and juvenile facilities. PREA covers issues/incidents related to resident-on-resident sexual assault, resident-on-resident abusive sexual contact, staff sexual misconduct and staff sexual harassment of a resident.
- **How do I report on incident(s) of sexual misconduct?**

Community Renewal Team and the Fresh Start Program provide several ways for individuals to privately report sexual misconduct. This includes, but is not limited to residents; staff, volunteers, contractors, interns and visitors. The following reporting options are available to residents or staff. Those who make such reports will be protected from retaliation:

 - 1) Reports can be made anonymously at any time by contacting Community Renewal Team, Inc. (CRT) Confidential Hotline at 1-866-211-0805.
 - 2) Reports can be made verbally to any Fresh Start program staff member.
 - 3) Reports can be made in writing (confidentially) to Community Renewal Team, Human Resources Dept., 555 Windsor St. Hartford, CT 06120
- **How do Fresh Start residents report sexual misconduct?**

Community Renewal Team, Inc. and the Fresh Start Program provide multiple ways for residents and staff to privately report sexual misconduct. The following reporting options are available to residents or staff:

 - 1) Reports can be made anonymously at any time by contacting Community Renewal Team Confidential Hotline at 1-866-211-0805.
 - 2) Reports can be made verbally to any Fresh Start program staff member, or to the resident's Probation Officer, Court Officials (i.e. Bail), Clergy, etc.
 - 3) Reports can be made in writing (even confidentially) to Community Renewal Team Human Resources Dept., 555 Windsor St. Hartford, CT 06120, any



Fresh Start program staff member, or to the resident’s Probation Officer, Court Officials (i.e. Bail), Clergy, etc.

- 4) Residents can also report abuse or harassment to an office that is not part of the Fresh Start program or agency, allowing the resident to remain anonymous upon request. Reports can be made anonymously at any time by contacting the CT Sexual Abuse Crisis Services (CONNSACS) at:
 - Statewide 24 Hour Toll Free Hotline:
 - 1-888-999-5545 (English)
 - 1-888-568-8332 (En Español para Todo el Estado)
 - Local New Britain: 860-223-1787
 - Local Hartford: 860-547-1022

• **What do I do if someone I know is being threatened or victimized?**

Community Renewal Team, Inc. and the Fresh Start Program ensure a method exists to receive third party reports of sexual abuse and sexual harassment and shall distribute publicly information on how to report sexual abuse and sexual harassment on behalf of a resident.

• **How does the investigative process work?**

Community Renewal Team and the Fresh Start Program will contact and rely on local and/or state authorities to investigate sexual abuse.

PREA Reports:

The following PREA reports will be made available after the completion of the PREA audit scheduled for October 14, 2015 and subsequent PREA Auditor Summary Report.

- PREA Audit Report:
 - Notices of Audit:
 - [2015](#)
 - 2018
 - Audit Report:
 - [2015](#)
 - 2018
- CRT Annual Report related to PREA:
- CRT-Fresh Start Aggregate Sexual Abuse Data:

PREA Resources:

- The National PREA Resource Center (PRC): (<http://www.prearesourcecenter.org/about>)
- PREA Standards For Confinement Facilities (i.e. Fresh Start Program): (<http://www.prearesourcecenter.org/sites/default/files/library/preafinalstandardstype-communityconfinement.pdf>)