

**Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) – Annual Report 2021**

**The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)** was passed with unanimous support from both parties in Congress in 2003. The purpose of the act was to “provide for the analysis of the incidence and effects of prison rape in Federal, State, and local institutions and to provide information, resources, and recommendations and funding to protect individuals from prison rape.” (Prison Rape Elimination Act, 2003). In addition to creating a mandate for significant research from the Bureau of Justice Statistics and through the National Institute of Justice, funding through the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the National Institute of Corrections supported major efforts in many state correctional, juvenile detention, community corrections, and jail systems.

**Prison Rape Elimination Act – Zero Tolerance Statement**

The Fayette County Jail is committed to your safety and the safety of inmates. The inmates have a right to serve their sentence with dignity and to be free from sexual assault, sexual harassment and retaliation. The volunteers, contract staff, facilitators, and officers also have the right to work in this facility free of sexual assault, sexual harassment and retaliation. The Fayette County Jail has zero tolerance regarding sexual assault within its facility. This means we do not tolerate any level of sexual harassment, misconduct or assault in this facility. Every effort will be made to prevent sexual assault and misconduct from occurring. Every allegation will be investigated, every violator punished, and every victim offered services.

**Annual Report**: Since 2012, when the final PREA standards came into effect, the Fayette County Sheriff’s Office has made multiple revisions to policies, procedures and training in order to cooperate and comply with Federal standards enacted to guide our officers, employees and volunteers with regard to sexual abuse and harassment. Our facility maintains a designated PREA Coordinator (Sgt. Hilery Chensvold) to ensure compliance within the Fayette County Jail and the Fayette County Sheriff’s Office as a whole. It is our initiative to mitigate and eliminate instances of sexual abuse and/or sexual harassment. There is a system in place at the Fayette County Sheriff’s Office to collect data on incidents of a sexual nature within this facility. The Fayette County Sheriff’s Office collects accurate, uniform data for every allegation of sexual abuse under its direct control using every available means through law enforcement. Through this, the Fayette County Sheriff’s Office will compile an annual report based upon the data collect through investigations of incidents. Listed below is the Fayette County Sheriff’s Office 2021 annual report based upon the above aforementioned data.

**\*Incidents can be categorized as any of the following**: Inmate on Inmate Harassment, Inmate on Inmate Abuse, Staff on Inmate Harassment, and Staff on Inmate Abuse.

**Each of these can be found to be**:

1. Substantiated
2. Unsubstantiated
3. Unfounded
4. Founded