



2017 PREA Annual Report Sequel Youth and Family Services / Forest Ridge Youth Services of Sequel

Background

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was passed by Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2003 to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse that occurs in confinement settings. The National Prison Rape Elimination Commission developed national standards for reducing prison rape, which became final on June 20, 2012, when they were published by the Department of Justice (DOJ) in the Federal Register. PREA applies to adult prisons and jails, juvenile confinement facilities, lockups and community confinement facilities.

Implementation of the PREA standards in combating sexual abuse in confinement facilities will be contingent upon effective agency and facility leadership, and the development of an agency's principles prioritizing efforts to combat sexual abuse. The prevention of rape, sexual assault, or sexual misconduct is a top priority for Sequel Youth and Family Service. We have a zero tolerance for any incidence of rape, sexual assault, or sexual misconduct; and makes every effort to comply with applicable components of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003.

Pursuant to § 115.387 of the PREA standards

- (a) The agency shall collect accurate, uniform data for every allegation of sexual abuse at facilities under its direct control using a standardized instrument and set of definitions
- (b) The agency shall aggregate the incident-based sexual abuse data at least annually.
- (c) The incident-based data collected shall include, at a minimum, the data necessary to answer all questions from the most recent version of the Survey of Sexual Violence conducted by the Department of Justice.
- (d) The agency shall maintain, review, and collect data as needed from all available incident-based documents, including reports, investigation files, and sexual abuse incident reviews.
- (e) The agency also shall obtain incident-based and aggregated data from every private facility with which is contracts for the confinement of its residents.
- (f) Upon request, the agency shall provide all such data from the previous calendar year to the Department of Justice no later than June 30th.

Subsequently, these statistics are published in an annual report made public via the Sequel Youth and Family Services website, the annual report covers the reporting period from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 and will provide the following:

- Sequel Youth and Family Services definitions;
- Findings of reported incidents of sexual abuse; and
- Corrective actions (if needed)

DEFINITIONS

Once a report of sexual abuse has been accepted and investigated, the incident will be classified using one of the following findings:



Substantiated – allegation is sufficient evidence to justify a reasonable conclusion of guilt

Unsubstantiated – insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation

Unfounded – allegation is false or the agency that completes the investigation states that the allegation is unfounded

Student on student sexually abusive penetration: Any sexual penetration by a student of another student. The sexual acts included are: contact between the penis and the vagina or the anus; contact between the mouth and the penis, vagina, or anus; or penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person by hand, finger, or other object.

Student on student sexually abusive contact: Non-penetrating touching (either directly or through the clothing) of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks without penetration by a student of another student, with or without the latter's consent, or of a student who is coerced into sexual contact by threats of violence, or of a student who is unable to refuse.

Student on student sexual harassment: Repeated and unwelcome sexual advance, requests for sexual favors, verbal comments, or gestures or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by one student directed toward another.

Staff on student sexually abusive penetration: Sexual penetration by a staff member of a student, including contact between the penis and vagina or anus; contact between the mouth and the penis, vagina, or anus; or penetration of the anal or genital opening of a student by a hand, finger, or other object.

Staff on student sexually abusive contact: Includes non-penetrating touching (either directly or through the clothing) of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks by a staff member of a student that is unrelated to official duties.

Staff on student sexual harassment: Repeated verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to a student by a staff member. Such statements include demeaning references to gender, sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing, or profane or obscene language or gestures.

Staff on student indecent exposure: The display of a staff member of his or her uncovered genitalia, buttocks, or breast in the presence of a student.

Staff-on-student voyeurism and/or exploitation: An invasion of a student's privacy by staff for reasons unrelated to official duties or when otherwise not necessary for safety and security reasons. Includes allowing, permitting, or engaging a child to engage in prostitution, or allowing, permitting, encouraging, or engaging in the photographing, filming, or depicting of a child engaged in listed sexual act as defined in Iowa Code 728.12.



Staff sexual misconduct: Includes any behavior or act of a sexual nature directed toward a student by an employee, volunteer, contractor, official visitor, or other agency representative. Sexual relationships of a romantic nature between staff and student(s) are included in this definition.

Sexual Abuse Allegations July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017 Data

Sequel Youth and Family Services has been reporting sexual incidents over the years, however, Sequel took over Forest Ridge Youth Services of Sequel in January 2015 and we began collecting this data using the PREA guidelines at this time. The following are the incidents that were reported.

Forest Ridge Youth Services of Sequel there were 14 reports received, 3 were staff-on-resident and 11 were resident-on-resident. Of those, 2 were substantiated (investigation determined that they occurred), resident on resident. There were no other allegations during that time period that would have risen to the level of sexual harassment or sexual abuse as defined in the PREA standards. This compares to the 2016 time period of 5 reports received, 1 of which were substantiated resident-on-resident.

	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded
July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014	5	5	
July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015	1	6	2
July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016	1	1	3
July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017	2	6	3
Total	9	18	8

PREA Compliance Activities and Investigations of Allegations

Sequel Youth and Family Services has a zero-tolerance policy relating to sexual assault/rape of a student and will cooperate in the investigation and prosecution of anyone involved in a sexual assault/rape of a Sequel Youth And Family Services student. The primary responsibility of all Sequel Youth and Family Services employees is student safety. This policy shall be followed in conjunction with all Federal and State mandatory reporting requirements.

All sexual abuse allegations are reported to the proper authorities for investigation. Sequel cooperates with the investigative agency and follows up with any findings or recommendations from the investigation.

Sequel PREA Coordinator conducts internal Critical Incident Reviews on reported sexual abuse allegations. The review consists of environmental factors, human factors, system factors as well as any corrective actions items that need to be followed up on. If system issues are identified, these are shared with other Sequel programs to ensure that each program has an effective process in place for the safety of our residents.