

## **PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT OF 2003:**




The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) 2003 prohibits and seeks to eliminate sexual assaults and sexual misconduct in correctional institutions. Sexual abuse encompasses (1) inmate-on-inmate sexual abuse, (2) inmate-on-inmate sexual harassment, (3) staff-on-inmate sexual abuse, and (4) staff-on-inmate sexual harassment.

## **PREA POLICY:**

It is the policy of The Next Door Chattanooga to provide a safe, humane and secure environment free from threat of sexual abuse for all offenders in custody by maintaining a program of prevention, detection, response, investigation and tracking of all alleged sexual abuse. The Next Door Chattanooga has a zero tolerance policy for incidences of sexual abuse within its facility. It is the policy of The Next Door Chattanooga to report all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment to Tennessee Department of Correction for investigations and tracking purposes.

## **ACTION PLAN:**

The Next Door Chattanooga has adopted the Department of Justice Title 28 Code of Federal Regulations Part 115 National Standards to prevent, detect and respond to prison rape.

-  Pursuant to Tennessee criminal laws, The Next Door Chattanooga is committed to protecting offenders in its custody from sexual contact or sexual misconduct.
-  The Next Door Chattanooga employs a PREA Manager charged with the responsibilities of developing, implementing, and monitoring the department's PREA programming and report responsibilities. This position provides consultation and guidance to facility staff with respect to PREA implementation and monitoring, as well as provide oversight of PREA training to staff. The PREA Manager analyzes reported data and keeps The Next Door staff briefed on developing trends, lessons learned, and best practices for detection and prevention of sexual assault and sexual misconduct.
-  The Next Door Chattanooga is a contract agency with Tennessee Department of Correction to house inmates from Tennessee Prison for Women (TPFW), therefore TPFW's PREA Coordinator will serve as the PREA Coordinator for The Next Door Chattanooga.

## **EMPLOYEE AWARENESS AND EDUCATION:**

All employees receive training about the federal law, state law, and departmental policy governing sexual contact with offenders.

All employees receive training concerning their duty to report rumors or allegations of sexual assault or sexual misconduct, to whom they should report, how they should report, and when they should report such incidents.

All employees receive training about how to detect an unreported incident of sexual abuse.

Contractors, volunteers, and interns authorized to have contact with offenders must read the department's zero-tolerance policy statement and sign to indicate agreement to abide by its terms.

## **OFFENDER AWARENESS AND TRAINING:**

Offenders receive written notice and training on how to avoid becoming a target for sexual abuse.

Offenders receive notice in the TND Chattanooga resident handbook that sexual contact is strictly prohibited and may be punishable by disciplinary action and criminal prosecution.

Offenders receive training on what to do if they have become a victim of sexual assault, including the various reporting methods and how to preserve physical evidence.

The Next Door Chattanooga has a free and confidential PREA Hotline to allow offenders to report incidents of sexual abuse without fear of reprisal.

## **OFFENDER CLASSIFICATION AND HOUSING:**

The Next Door Chattanooga is committed to providing safe environments for offenders under its supervision.

All offenders receive a comprehensive evaluation during initial intake to identify risk factors associated with sexual abuse and potential victimization.

Specialized instruments, specific for females, screen for sexual aggressive and sexual victimization tendencies.

Offenders identified as aggressors or victims of sexual abuse are closely monitored. Victims or potential victims are not housed in the same room with an aggressor or potential aggressor.



## **RESPONSE TO SEXUAL ASSAULT OR SEXUAL MISCONDUCT ALLEGATIONS:**

Employees have a duty to report all rumors and allegations of sexual abuse through the chain of command.

The Next Door Chattanooga ensures alleged victims of sexual abuse receive immediate medical attention. The Next Door Chattanooga PREA Manager will be involved in the TDOC/TPFW SART for investigations that involve The Next Door Chattanooga residents.

Mental health evaluations to victims of sexual abuse will be made available through Tennessee Prison for Women.

All allegations of sexual abuse will be reported to Internal Investigators for investigation.

The Next Door shall accept third party reporting from families or friends of residents.

Reports can be made to The Next Door Chattanooga

By Phone: 423-933-0112

By Mail: The Next Door

ATTN: PREA Manager

P.O. Box 526

Chattanooga, TN 37401

TND PREA Hotline: 1-877-707-9839

TDOC PREA Tip Line: 615-253-8178

## **INVESTIGATION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT:**

The Next Door is dedicated to reporting all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment to Tennessee Department of Correction for investigation purposes.

## **PREA AUDITS:**

Final PREA audit reports are now available. You may request a report by submitting an email request to The Next Door's Compliance Coordinator, Charlotte Chaney - [charlotte.chaney@thenextdoor.org](mailto:charlotte.chaney@thenextdoor.org)

