

Prison

Rape

Elimination 2025

Act

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This report has been prepared in accordance with Prison Rape Elimination Act Standard 115.87 in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, response policies and training.

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The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) is a federal law that prohibits sexual misconduct in correctional settings such as prisons, jails, lockups, community confinements, and juvenile facilities. Sexual misconduct under the law includes:

- Client–on–Client sexual abuse and sexual harassment
- Staff–on–Client sexual abuse, sexual harassment and any sexual misconduct (undue familiarity)

Sedgwick County Department of Corrections (SCDOC) provides a safe and healthy environment for staff and clients. The department promptly investigates and enforces laws and policies of “zero tolerance” relating to illegal sexual acts, sexual harassment, sexual abuse or misconduct in all its facilities. The department provides a comprehensive PREA prevention and intervention program which includes education, prevention, prompt intervention and discipline/prosecution of assailants and appropriate treatment for victims. The department refers allegations of a criminal nature to the Sedgwick County Sheriff’s Office.

This report will summarize the efforts by the SCDOC to achieve compliance with the federal standards of PREA.

## **Definitions:**

**Substantiated** – An allegation was investigated and determined to have occurred.

**Undue Familiarity** – Conversations, personal or business dealings between a staff member and a client which is unnecessary, not a part of the staff member’s duties and related to a personal relationship or purpose rather than a legitimate correctional purpose. Undue familiarity includes horseplay, betting, trading, dealing, socializing, family contact unrelated to the staff’s duties, sharing or giving food, delivering or intending to deliver contraband, personal conversation, exchanging correspondence, including social networking via the internet. It also includes conversation or correspondence that demonstrates or suggests a romantic or intimate relationship between a client and the staff, sexual misconduct, or in any other manner developing a relationship with a client.

**Unsubstantiated** – An allegation was investigated and the investigation produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether the event occurred.

**Unfounded** – An allegation was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

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## Policy Development

SCDOC has enacted several new policies, specifically related to PREA, over the last ten years. In addition to the new policies, several existing policies have been updated to enhance, prevent and eliminate sexual misconduct. The PREA policies are located on the Department of Corrections intranet site under SCDOC Administrative policies; however, specific program policies are available upon request.

- ✓ The following policies were reviewed and/or revised in 2025:
  - 1.300 Internal Investigations
  - 1.300.1 Investigation Summary
  - 1.300.3 SCDOC Statement of Rights (Kalkines Warning)
  - 1.301 PREA – Sexual Abuse Prevention and Intervention
    - 1.301.1a PREA Client Acknowledgement Form
    - 1.301.1b PREA Client Acknowledgement Form (Spanish)
    - 1.301.2 PREA Acknowledgement Form
    - 1.301.3 PREA Protocol Checklist
    - 1.301.4 PREA Retaliation Monitoring
    - 1.301.5a PREA Investigations Flowchart
    - 1.301.5b PREA Processing Map
    - 1.301.6 Disclosure of PREA Employment Standards Violation
    - 1.301.7 PREA Unannounced Rounds
    - 1.301.8 PREA Quiz for SCDOC
    - 1.301.9a Medical Behavioral Health Admission Screening HA-2.0
    - 1.301.9b Adult Services – Housing Classification
    - 1.301.9c Juvenile Housing Classification Tool
    - 1.301.10 Sexual Abuse Review Board (SARB) Incident Review Form
    - 1.301.11 PREA Institutional Reference Form
    - 1.301.12 PREA Investigation Summary

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## Training

SCDOC employees, contractors, and volunteers receive PREA training and policy review prior to direct contact with the clients. SCDOC employees also attend a second PREA training within 60 days of their employment start date. The training includes:

- ✓ PREA standards and zero tolerance for sexual abuse and harassment
- ✓ Understanding and addressing Undue Familiarity
- ✓ First responder (secure and non-secure) expectations
- ✓ LGBTQI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex) and victimization
- ✓ Recognizing the physical, behavioral and emotional signs of sexual assault.

The Internal Investigations policy requires all PREA investigators to complete the *National Institute of Corrections (NIC): PREA Investigating Sexual Abuse in a Confinement Setting* and the department’s *Conducting Internal Investigations* training within one year of being hired or promoted. Both requirements must be fulfilled before a supervisor can be assigned to conduct a PREA investigation. The department held one, in-person, *Conducting Internal Investigations* training on April 23, 2025.

It is a practice that all SCDOC Mental Health Professionals and the contracted healthcare provider for the Juvenile Residential Facility (JRF) and Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) complete the *NIC: PREA Medical Health Care for Sexual Assault Victims in a Confinement Setting*.

PREA Refresher training handouts were developed for JRF, JDF and the Adult Residential and Work Release (ARES/WR) program in 2019 and continue to be an educational resource for staff. These handouts are aimed at building staff capacity to fulfill their duties under the PREA standards. Each handout covers a specific topic related to prevention, intervention and response. There are 13 refresher handouts that are available for review at JRF, JDF, and ARES/WR with direct care staff and their supervisors. Additionally, all SCDOC employees, contractors, and volunteers receive annual refresher training.

Performance Measures	2025 Actual
Number / percentage of clients that received PREA training	981 / 100%
Number / percentage of staff that received PREA training	371 / 100%
Number / percentage of volunteers and contractors that received PREA training	162 / 97% **
Number of investigations completed	10
Number of substantiated PREA allegations	1

\*\*Volunteers and contractors missing the training have been identified and corrected.

## **Sexual Abuse Review Board (SARB)**

The director established and selected the SARB on July 24, 2015, in accordance with the PREA standards and SCDOC policy. The board consists of three members, serving a one-year term, which may be reappointed by the director. The board appointment begins July 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on June 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year.

The SARB reviews all substantiated and unsubstantiated PREA investigations within 30 days of the conclusion of the investigation. The board considers whether allegations or investigation indicates a need to change policy or practice to better prevent, detect or respond to sexual abuse/sexual harassment. There are several areas of consideration for the board to review which include motivators for the allegation, physical barriers, staffing levels and technology.

In 2025, the SARB committee reviewed 7 allegations of which one was substantiated and 6 were unsubstantiated. All 7 allegations were reviewed by the SARB committee and feedback was provided to the PREA Compliance Managers (PCM) and/or the Primary PREA Investigator. All PCMs and/or Primary Investigators responded to the feedback within 5 business days and provided satisfactory corrective action. There were three unfounded allegations that were investigated in 2025.

## **Client Education**

In all the SCDOC facilities, clients are educated by staff within 10 days of intake on their rights to be free from sexual abuse, sexual harassment and to be free from retaliation for reporting such incidents.

The training includes:

- ✓ PREA standards and zero tolerance for sexual abuse and harassment
- ✓ Education and awareness on PREA
- ✓ Recognizing the physical, behavioral and emotional signs of sexual assault
- ✓ Rules and expectations regarding inappropriate sexual behaviors
- ✓ How to report incidents of sexual abuse/harassment and their responsibility.

The Language Line and UBI-DUO are available to assist clients with PREA education. The Language Line is a phone service that provides translation in more than 240 languages. The UBI-DUO is an American Disability Act (ADA) approved communication device for the hearing impaired, that removes communication barriers and allows clients to hold a conversation in real-time. All clients have access to PREA information pamphlets (English and Spanish), posters (English and Spanish), videos, handbooks, Kansas Protection Report Center (hotline), website, management and the PREA Coordinator telephone number for contact and assistance.

## Screening Tool

The department has adopted two objective screening instruments (adult & juvenile) that are completed within 72 hours of the client's arrival at the facility and periodically throughout a client's confinement. The screening instruments are used to measure the client's risk of sexual abuse victimization and/or sexual abusiveness toward other clients. The results of the screening tool are used to make housing, bed, program, education, and level assignments; with the goal of keeping all clients safe and free from sexual abuse and sexual harassment. The department uses the instrument to identify clients as having a vulnerability of victimization (VV) and/or sexually aggressive (SA). These categories help ensure clients are not housed together and that staff are more vigilant in their daily observations of clients. The PREA Compliance Manager shall determine housing and programming assignments on a case-by-case basis for all transgender and intersex clients. All transgender / intersex housing assignments must be documented on the screening tool to show if the client was housed by their gender identity or if the client presented safety and security concerns that prevented the assignment from being approved.

- ✓ JDF / JRF facilities use the Medical Behavioral Health Admission Screening HA-2.0, developed with Mental Health contractor VitalCore. These forms are completed electronically and kept in the COREMR system. If clients transfer from JDF to JRF, staff complete the Housing Classification Tool.
- ✓ The ARES/WR facility uses ARES Screening for Victimization and Abusiveness. In 2025, the ARES/WR facility received funding to have Medical Contractor VitalCore work in the program. VitalCore completes a Medical Behavioral Health Admission Screening – HA-2.0. These forms are completed electronically and kept in the COREMR system.

## Cooperative Agreements and Contracts

SCDOC has several agreements / contracts with other agencies to provide the best services to our clients.

- ✓ Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center
- ✓ COMCARE
- ✓ Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office
- ✓ Ascension Via Christi at St. Joseph Hospital (SANE/SAFE exams)
- ✓ VitalCore

A memorandum of agreement between the Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center (WASAC), Ascension Via Christi at St. Joseph Hospital and SCDOC was signed in 2021. This agreement outlines the methodical process and services offered to clients that have been sexually abused; to include advocacy services, forensic medical examination, tests for sexually transmitted infections, timely access to emergency contraception, and follow-up services at no cost to the victim.

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An updated agreement between the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office and SCDOC was signed in April 2024. The purpose of the agreement is to collaborate with the Sheriff to provide investigative services if an allegation of sexual abuse occurs at any SCDOC facility. The agreement outlines the rights of the victim to have an advocate present during the forensic medical examination process and investigatory interviews. It also states that communication between SCDOC and the Sheriff's Office shall occur monthly regarding updates to create an SCDOC case record retention file.

COMCARE, the Sedgwick County Mental Health Center, signed a Letter of Support on June 4, 2021, that shows their support for the department so that they may improve the quality of life for those affected by trauma and to show their support to being a PREA resource for the clients we serve.

## **Statistics**

SCDOC has 2 licensed juvenile facilities and 1 adult community confinement facility, which are the following:

- ✓ Juvenile Detention Facility at 700 South Hydraulic in Wichita, KS. The detention facility houses youth age 10 to 17 with a bed capacity of 108.
- ✓ Juvenile Residential Facility at 881 South Minnesota in Wichita, KS. The non-secure residential facility houses any youth age 10 to 18 with a bed capacity of 16.
- ✓ Adult Residential and Work Release at 623 East Elm in Wichita, KS. The non-secure residential facility can house up to 178 adults.

## **Audit**

Federal PREA standards require facilities to conduct a PREA Audit every three years, to ensure compliance. JDF and JRF completed a PREA audit in 2025 and there were zero areas of non-compliance identified. ARES/WR is scheduled to have an onsite PREA Audit in May 2026. To obtain a PREA Audit, the department must hire an auditor certified by the Department of Justice. A finding of "Does Not Meet Standard" with one or more standards shall trigger a 180-day corrective action period. The auditor's final report will be published on the agency's website or made readily available to the public.

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**Adult Residential and Work Release**

<b>PREA Allegations of Staff-on-Client</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Substantiated</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Unsubstantiated</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Unfounded</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Investigation Ongoing</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>

<b>PREA Allegations of Client-on-Client</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Substantiated</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Unsubstantiated</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Unfounded</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Investigation Ongoing</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

**Juvenile Detention Facility**

<b>PREA Allegations of Staff-on-Client</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Substantiated</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Unsubstantiated</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Unfounded</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Investigation Ongoing</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>PREA Allegations of Client-on-Client</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Substantiated</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Unsubstantiated</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Unfounded</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Investigation Ongoing</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

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### Juvenile Residential Facility

PREA Allegations of Staff-on-Client	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Substantiated</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Unsubstantiated</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Unfounded</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Investigation Ongoing</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

PREA Allegations of Client-on-Client	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Substantiated</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Unsubstantiated</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Unfounded</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Investigation Ongoing</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

#### Staffing Plan

All juvenile SCDOC facilities comply with federal and state licensing requirements for staffing ratios of a minimum of 1:8 during client waking hours and 1:14 during client sleeping hours. SCDOC facilities complete Annual Staffing Plan reviews to ensure PREA and staffing concerns are addressed. Any deviations from the staffing plans are documented.

#### Monitoring Technology

All SCDOC facilities have camera video and recording capabilities. Some audio capabilities are available at various locations.

JDF upgraded the Com-tec equipment and cameras in December 2020. In 2025, there were additional cameras added to the facility to increase overall coverage and eliminate identified blind spots. AXON body cameras with visual and audio recording abilities are worn by JDF Supervisors and JDF Assistant Supervisors. AXON fleet cameras are present in JDF and JRF vehicles and offer visual and audio recording capabilities. There is now a total of 191 cameras to monitor the interior and exterior areas of the facility.

ARES/WR installed a new camera system in 2019, which includes new monitoring features and audio in select locations. In 2024, the camera system completed an upgrade, and additional cameras were added to the system for increased overall coverage. In 2025, 17 cameras were added to the dorm areas, to improve security and

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monitoring. There are now 83 total cameras to monitor the interior and exterior of the facility and administrative offices.

The JRF camera system was also upgraded in 2024. This system has audio and video capabilities for 19 interior facility cameras and 7 exterior cameras. Overall, the system has 26 cameras to monitor the interior and exterior of the facility and is a significant improvement over the old analog camera system.

All SCDOC facilities utilize the Department of Children and Families Kansas Protection Report Center abuse hotline for clients to make private and anonymous reports of sexual abuse and sexual misconduct.

## **Summary**

SCDOC reviewed/revised all PREA policies in 2025. Policy and practices are reviewed at a minimum of once annually, as well as continuous updates to monitoring technology and staff / client education to focus on the reduction of sexual abuse in SCDOC facilities. Monitoring technology at all locations has been significantly improved and allows for audio in select locations. Audio upgrades will continue to be a priority for consideration in all DOC facilities.

The PREA Sexual Abuse Review Board (SARB) was established in 2015, and appointments serve for one-year terms. The review board conducts a review of every sexual misconduct investigation. The board meets within 30 days of the conclusion of every investigation with a substantiated and / or unsubstantiated finding and makes recommendations within the guidelines of the PREA standard 115.86. Any staff involved in sexual misconduct with substantiated findings may be terminated from employment and are not eligible for rehire in our department. All PREA investigations reviews were completed within 30 days by the SARB and PCMs / Primary Investigators provided satisfactory corrective action in 2025.

Informational brochures and posters (English and Spanish) continue to be distributed to all the SCDOC facilities for clients, families, volunteers and contractors on reporting sexual abuse and sexual misconduct. The Sedgwick County Department of Corrections website contains PREA Annual Reports, PREA resources and the [Online PREA Training for Volunteers and Contractors](#). PREA training handouts were developed for all SCDOC facilities in 2019 and continue to be an educational resource for staff.