

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF ROANOKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PROGRESS IN ADDRESSING SEXUAL ABUSE

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003 is a federal law established to support the elimination and prevention of sexual assault and sexual misconduct in correctional systems. PREA addresses both inmate-on-inmate sexual assault and staff-on-inmate sexual assault. The Roanoke County Sheriff's Office fully supports the guidelines set forth in this law and has ZERO-TOLERANCE for any and all incidents of sexual assault and sexual misconduct in accordance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003.

The Roanoke County Sheriff's Office implements policies through a facility wide systematic process that begins when inmates are initially admitted into the facility. When inmates enter our intake area, they are met with an educational process where their rights to be free from sexual abuse and harassment are explained to them. From there, an assessment is conducted on every inmate to determine their individual risk of victimization or predation using an objective tool based on specific risk factors. This tool is utilized to make an individualized determination of housing and program assignments for each inmate.

Throughout the facility, inmates are exposed to education concerning reporting options through the use of the inmate handbook and posted informational sheets. Video monitoring is utilized throughout the jail facility to enhance security and surveillance. The number and location of video cameras is reviewed no less frequently than every year by facility staff to assess if the level of monitoring is adequate to protect the inmate population from sexual abuse and to ensure the safety of staff and inmates.

When it comes to sexual activity within the jail facility, Roanoke County Sheriff's Office policies and procedures are clear; ALL SEXUAL ACITIVITY IS PROHIBITED. Beyond those rules, forced or coerced sexual behavior is a criminal act that merits criminal prosecution. All substantiated incidents are reported for investigation to ensure the perpetrator faces the full consequences of the law. The Roanoke County Sheriff's Office has an agreement with the Roanoke County Police Department to ensure that all incidents of sexual assault are thoroughly investigated and referred for prosecution to the Commonwealth Attorney.

The national Prison Rape Elimination Commission developed recommended national standards for reducing prison rape.

Pursuant to standard §115.88 of the Prison Rape Elimination Act, (PREA), the Roanoke County Sheriff's Office is required to:

1. Aggregate incident based sexual abuse data annually from publicly and privately operated facilities.
2. Use the data to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training by:
 - a. Identifying problem areas;
 - b. Tracking corrective action on a continual basis; and
 - c. Preparing an annual report of its findings
3. Compare the current year's data and corrective actions with those from the prior year's and provide an assessment of the agency's progress in addressing sexual abuse.
4. Publish the annual report on the Roanoke County Sheriff's Office website of its findings and corrective actions for each facility, as well as the agency as a whole.

Aggregated Data

During the calendar year 2018, the PREA Coordinator for the Roanoke County Sheriff's Office collected the referrals for investigation from allegations of inmate-on-inmate and staff-on-inmate sexual abuse. This data is the basis for this section of the report.

In 2018, there were two (2) allegations of sexual victimization that were investigated with the results of both being **UNFOUNDED**. Both allegations are categorized as Sexual Assaults. Incident 2018-01 was allegedly committed on July 28, 2017, but was not reported until March 20, 2018. The alleged victim made several posts on social media accusing several staff members of sexual assault during her incarceration. This incident was ultimately investigated by the Virginia State Police and found to be Unfounded. Incident 2018-02 allegedly occurred on May 8, 2018. The alleged victim was an incarcerated inmate who used the anonymous hotline to phone his accusation into our staff. The resulting investigation showed that the accuser owed money to several people in the housing area and was attempting to get one of the people he owed moved out of the pod by accusing him of sexual assault. The investigation revealed this claim to be Unfounded.

Average ADP 2017	Referrals 2017	Percentage	Average ADP 2018	Referrals 2018	Percentage
135.9	2	1.47%	151.5	2	1.32%

Finding	2017	2018
Substantiated	2	0
Unsubstantiated	0	0
Unfounded	0	2
Investigation On-Going	0	0
Total	2	2

Analysis

In regards to the two incidents, it appears that both were handled swiftly and appropriately. These two incidents showed no inherent deficiencies in the policy, procedures, or processes currently in place.

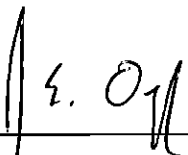
The Roanoke County Sheriff's Office has always, in good faith, made an effort to analyze its efforts and results. In addition, the Roanoke County Sheriff's Office will continue to maintain a zero tolerance policy on sexual misconduct.

1. **Problem Areas:** There were no known problem areas found during this past year (2018).
2. **Corrective Actions:** For all incidents, the involved inmates were separated, kept safe, and offered medical and mental counseling. In regards to Incident 2018-01, the investigation was handled by the Virginia State Police as the accusation was towards a staff member. This separate investigation helped reinforce the image of transparency within the Roanoke County Sheriff's Office. Pro-active training will continue for all staff, volunteers, contractors, and inmates. The Roanoke County Sheriff's Office maintains a zero tolerance policy regarding sexual harassment and sexual misconduct.
3. **Planned Efforts for 2019:** New supervisors will continue to receive training in PREA investigations.

Summary

The Roanoke County Sheriff's Office maintains a zero tolerance policy regarding sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual abuse. The Sheriff's Office will continue its efforts to

comply with the Prison Rape Elimination Act to prevent in-custody sexual abuse, harassment, and misconduct.



Joseph E. Orange, Sheriff