

## **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, informational pamphlets, 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 ACTIVITY 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 and the Virginia State Police 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 2022, the PREA Coordinator for the Roanoke County Sheriff's Office collected the referrals, if any, 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 2022, there were three allegations of sexual victimization.

Average ADP 2021	Referrals 2021	Percentage	Average ADP 2022	Referrals 2022	Percentage
111	2	1.8%	99	3	3.03%

Finding	2021	2022
Substantiated	0	0
Unsubstantiated	1	0
Unfounded	1	3
Investigation On-Going	0	0
Total	2	3

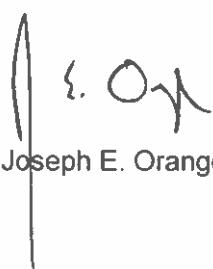
## Analysis

The Roanoke County Sheriff's Office has always, in good faith, made an effort to analyze its efforts and results, if any an allegation is made. 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 (2022).
2. **Corrective Actions:** None needed. The Roanoke County Sheriff's Office maintains a zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual harassment and sexual misconduct.
3. **Planned Efforts for 2023:** New supervisors will continue to receive training in PREA investigations. Further training for the entire staff through outside sources such as SARA. The PREA Coordinator will ensure each inmate is aware of the policies and assistance available, if needed.

## 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. E. Orange".

Joseph E. Orange, Sheriff