What can I do if I am **Sexually Abused?**

If the abuse just happened.....

Get to a safe place. Report the abuse to a staff member immediately.

DO NOT Shower

• Brush your teeth

- Use the restroom
- Change your clothes

Doing any of the above prior to reporting the abuse may destroy important evidence.

If you are a victim of sexual abuse / sexual harassment or you witnessed it, there are several ways to report the incident.

- 1. Report incident to staff member
- 2. Call the local CRIMESTOPPERS number posted by the inmate phones.
- 3. Write or call the local Rape Crisis Center and ask that they report it to the institution.
- 4. Write or call a trusted family member or friend and ask that they report it to the institution.

All phone calls and reports will be kept confidential.

What happens after I report being Sexually Abused?

You will immediately be separated from any alleged abusers pending the investigation.

Heath Services will be notified and you will receive a physical examination. The purpose of this will be to assess you for any injuries or exposure to sexually transmitted diseases (STD).

If it is determined that a crime has occurred. the Division of Criminal Investigation will take control of the evidence.

You will have access to a victim's advocate to help you through this process if you request one.

You will also be referred to Mental Health professionals for an assessment. Treatment will be provided if necessary.

Relief from Retaliation

It is against DOC policy and federal law for you to be retaliated against for reporting an incident of sexual abuse or sexual harassment.

Remember that sexual abuse and sexual harassment will not be tolerated from any source.

All reports will be investigated.

An Inmate's Guide

Sexual Abuse & Sexual Harassment AWARENESS

The South Dakota

has a policy of

Department of Corrections

ZERO TOLERANCE

towards all types of

Sexual Harassment

Sexual Abuse and

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SEXUAL ABUSE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT AWARENESS

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

PREA was enacted by Congress to address sexual assault in all U.S. institutions.

PREA was implemented to prevent sexual abuse and sexual harassment of offenders within our institutions. PREA applies to Offender-on-Offender and Staff-on-Offender sexual abuse.

What is Zero Tolerance?

The South Dakota Department of Corrections has **ZERO TOLERANCE** for sexual abuse / sexual harassment. This means we are committed to investigating EVERY allegation, getting services to EVERY victim, and punishing EVERY perpetrator. This includes involving law enforcement and prosecutors.

What is Sexual Abuse?

Inmate sexual abuse includes—

Any unwanted sexual contact from another offender. This includes contact or penetration (however slight) of the anus or vulva with the penis, finger or other object. This includes contact between the mouth and penis, vulva, or anus.

Any other intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or the buttocks of another person, excluding contact incidental to a physical altercation. Sexual Abuse does not have to be a violent act. If the victim feels they would be harmed or retaliated against if they refuse, it is sexual abuse.

Staff sexual abuse includes-

Any intentional sexual contact, either directly or through clothing, that is unrelated to official duties. Any attempt, threat or request by staff to engage in sexual activity or any display of staff genitalia, buttocks or breast in the presence of an offender.

Staff are prohibited by DOC policy and by state law from having a relationship with an offendereven if the relationship is consensual.

It is wrong for a staff member, including contract or volunteer staff, to engage in any type of sexual behavior with an offender.

What is Sexual Harassment?

Sexual harassment includes—

From inmates:

Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by one offender directed toward another.

From staff:

Repeated comments or gestures of a sexual nature to an offender by a staff member, including demeaning references to gender, sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing, or obscene language or gestures.

What can I do to avoid Sexual Abuse?

The only way sexual abuse or sexual harassment can be prevented is if the potential aggressor chooses NOT to abuse people.

However, you may help avoid these situations by keeping the following guidelines in mind.

- Be aware of situations that make you uncomfortable. Trust your instincts, if it feels wrong LEAVE.
- Don't let your manners get in the way of keeping yourself safe. Don't be afraid to say "NO" or "STOP IT NOW"
- Do not accept commissary or gifts from other inmates or staff. Placing yourself in debt can lead to the expectation of repaying the debt with sexual favors.
- Walk and stand with confidence. Many abusers will choose victims who look like they won't fight back or who appear emotionally weak.
- Avoid secluded areas. Position yourself in plain view of staff members. If you are being pressured for sex, report it immediately.