

## **ALL YOUTH HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM SEXUAL ABUSE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

All youth who have ever been sexually abused or sexually harassed have the right to:

- Confidential support from a Rape Crisis Center Victim Advocate
- Make a report and be free from retaliation
- Free medical care related to the sexual abuse
- A medical forensic exam to collect evidence, if the sexual abuse happened recently
- Have a Rape Crisis Center Victim Advocate with them at their exam



## **You can make a difference**



“It would have helped me a lot if I could have spoken to someone who could have told me that it wasn’t my fault and I didn’t deserve it. If I could have spoken to someone who would have believed me and advocated for me, I believe it would have been better for me.”

-Cyryna, survivor of sexual abuse in juvenile detention

Los Angeles County Probation Department  
Attn: PREA Compliance Unit  
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Downey, CA 90242

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County of Los Angeles Probation Department

# **PREA COMPLIANCE**



Volunteers and Contractors  
Education

## **How You Can Help Keep Youth Safe**

**Information for volunteers and  
contractors of the Los Angeles  
County Probation Department**

## WHAT IS SEXUAL ABUSE AND SEXUAL HARRASSMENT?

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**Sexual harassment** is any repeated derogatory or offensive verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature directed towards youth in custody.

**Sexual abuse** is any sexual touching or penetration of youth in custody by staff, contractors or volunteers; or any such non-consensual acts between youth.

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*Sexual contact or activity between any staff, contractor or volunteer and any youth in custody; regardless of age, can **NEVER** be consensual and is a crime.*

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### Is sexual abuse a problem in juvenile detention?

Studies show that 1 in 10 youth in juvenile facilities report being sexually abused while in detention. (BJS, 2012)  
LGBTQ youth, youth with mental illness, and survivors of previous sexual abuse are most at risk. (BJS, 2012)

## PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT (PREA)

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PREA is a federal law outlining the responsibilities of Los Angeles Probation Juvenile Halls and Camps facilities staff and volunteers to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment of youth. The Department has Zero Tolerance for sexual abuse and sexual harassment.



Any time you suspect a youth is being sexually abused or sexually harassed, or a youth tells you they have been sexually abused or sexually harassed, you *must* report it immediately to your supervisor or any Probation staff.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
**PROBATION**  
Building safer communities through positive change.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

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**If you suspect a youth is being sexually abused or sexually harassed or a youth tells you that they have been sexually abused or sexually harassed:**

- Take it seriously
- Provide support and validation
- Report to your supervisor or any Probation staff **immediately, it's your duty**
- Refrain from talking openly about the report to other volunteers or contractors

**Possible signs of sexual abuse include:**

- Changes in mood or behavior
- Refusing to shower or leave bed
- Self-harming behaviors
- Having special knowledge about staff / volunteers / contractors

Los Angeles Probation Department is committed to ensuring every youth is safe while in our custody. You are an important part of that commitment.