

***Untangling the PREA Standards:
Outside Reporting, Confidential Support,
and Third-Party Reporting
Fact Sheet***



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In developing the PREA standards, the Department of Justice ensured that inmates/detainees/residents¹ have multiple ways to report sexual abuse, and that they are able to access victim support services from outside agencies. The purpose of this fact sheet is to clarify the various external reporting methods that the standards require detention facilities to put in place, and that are separate from the internal reporting mechanisms described in the standard §115.51(a). This fact sheet aims to help facilities distinguish between external reporting, third-party reporting, and the provision of victim services, which each fulfills different but related requirements in the standards. In addition to clarifying the intent of the reporting standards, this factsheet contains three case studies to illustrate how these provisions apply in different corrections settings.

Standard	Discussion
<p>§115.51(b)/ 115.151(b)/ 115.251(b)/ 115.351(b)</p> <p>Inmate reporting²</p>	<p>Intent</p> <p>This standard ensures that inmates can report sexual abuse or sexual harassment to an entity other than the one that has custody over them. The role of the outside entity is to receive and immediately forward reports to the agency where the abuse occurred. The outside entity is not tasked with providing emotional support or crisis intervention or with completing the investigation, if that is not otherwise their role. (See the conversation around inmate reporting in the final PREA standards at http://1.usa.gov/1xUHihN.)</p>
	<p>Interpretation</p> <p>The importance of this standard is underscored by the research showing that many inmates do not trust internal reporting mechanisms. The outside entity, which can be public or private, must be able to forward reports, including anonymous ones, to the facility. This entity may have some investigative responsibility for crimes committed in the facility, but must be independent and governed separately from the facility.</p> <p>Establishing an outside reporting mechanism is different from setting up counseling hotlines, whose primary goal is to provide survivors of abuse with confidential counseling services. It is important not to conflate the roles of a reporting line and a counseling support line. Reporting mechanisms are not limited to phone calls, but can also include email or mail.</p> <p>Note: Because the intent is for an outside entity to be able to forward reports, a facility may not contract with an answering service to perform this function. (See the PREA Resource Center’s “Frequently Asked Questions,” at www.prearesourcecenter.org/faq.)</p>

¹ This fact sheet will use the term “inmate” to refer collectively to prison and jail inmates, police lockup detainees, and juvenile detention residents. It will use the specific term when referring only to a particular population.

² **§ 115.51(b)/115.151(b)/115.251(b)/115.351(b) Inmate reporting.**

(b) The agency shall also provide at least one way for inmates to report abuse or harassment to a public or private entity or office that is not part of the agency, and that is able to receive and immediately forward inmate reports of sexual abuse and sexual harassment to agency officials, allowing the inmate to remain anonymous upon request. Inmates detained solely for civil immigration purposes shall be provided information on how to contact relevant consular officials and relevant officials at the Department of Homeland Security. (For the complete standard on inmate reporting, see www.prearesourcecenter.org.)

	<p>Examples</p> <p>A county jail provides inmates with the city police department phone number.</p> <p>A state inspector general office that is independent of the state department of corrections operates a reporting hotline inside state prisons.</p> <p>A county child protective services agency receives reports from a juvenile detention facility.</p> <p>The city police lockup posts the telephone number, mailing address, and email of a city council community oversight committee.</p> <p>A community confinement facility provides residents with the state licensing agency's phone number and address.</p>
<p>§115.53/ 115.153 (reserved)/ 115.253/ 115.353</p> <p>Inmate access to outside confidential support services.³</p>	<p>Intent</p> <p>The purpose of this standard is to give inmates the ability to access support services that are similar to those available in the community. All inmates, whether they have made an official report or not, must be able to reach, via mail, telephone, or email, an organization with staff who are trained in providing support services. The services should be delivered in as confidential a manner as possible, so that inmates who have been sexually harassed or sexually abused, but do not feel safe to report, can still get help. If communication has to be monitored in some way, the facility must inform inmates, so that they can make an informed choice about what information to share. The facility must have in place written agreements that spell out the arrangements with the rape crisis or other support agency.</p> <p>This standard is not related to reporting sexual abuse. (See the conversation around access to outside support services in the final PREA standards at http://1.usa.gov/1F0heie.)</p> <p>Interpretation</p> <p>Rape crisis hotlines provide people who have been sexually abused or sexually harassed with access to a trained counselor. Survivors who contact hotlines can get much-needed support and information and, crucially, they can get this help confidentially and without making an official report. In the aftermath of sexual abuse, survivors are often overwhelmed and unsure about what to do next. Rape crisis counselors help survivors sort out their options so that they can make an informed choice about next steps. Because much of the value of such services derive from their confidential or anonymous nature, it is important to keep emotional support services distinct from reporting functions. Survivors of sexual abuse who are able to get support may be more likely to make an official report.</p>

³ § 115.53/115.153(reserved)/115.253/115.353 Inmate access to outside confidential support services.

(a) The facility shall provide inmates with access to outside victim advocates for emotional support services related to sexual abuse by giving inmates mailing addresses and telephone numbers, including toll-free hotline numbers where available, of local, State, or national victim advocacy or rape crisis organizations, and, for persons detained solely for civil immigration purposes, immigrant services agencies. The facility shall enable reasonable communication between inmates and these organizations and agencies, in as confidential a manner as possible.

(b) The facility shall inform inmates, prior to giving them access, of the extent to which such communications will be monitored and the extent to which reports of abuse will be forwarded to authorities in accordance with mandatory reporting laws.

(c) The agency shall maintain or attempt to enter into memoranda of understanding or other agreements with community service providers that are able to provide inmates with confidential emotional support services related to sexual abuse. The agency shall maintain copies of agreements or documentation showing attempts to enter into such agreements.

	<p>In the community, rape crisis and other victim support service agencies are not required to report sexual abuse or sexual harassment to authorities. Community service providers are legally obligated to ensure client confidentiality, except in the limited circumstances when mandatory reporting laws apply.</p>
	<p>Examples</p> <p>A county jail offers a hotline service that allows inmates to call the business office of the local rape crisis center. The calls are confidential and are not monitored by the jail, but they are recorded by the jail phone system. Per an agreement between the jail and the rape crisis center, only the jail PREA Coordinator can access the recordings, and s/he can do so only after receiving a written release from the head of the rape crisis center who, in turn, will only grant permission after obtaining a release from the caller. Call recordings are destroyed after 30 days unless they are being used in an investigation.</p> <p>A youth facility offers residents the address and telephone number of a local child abuse and domestic violence service agency. The agency has several counselors who are trained in providing sexual abuse services. The counselors periodically facilitate group sessions at the facility, and are familiar to many of the residents. The facility's posters and brochures clearly state that the counselors are required to report child abuse.</p>
<p>§115.54/ 115.154/ 115.254/ 115.354</p> <p>Third-party reporting.⁴</p>	<p>Intent</p> <p>Family members, friends, and advocates can report sexual abuse of inmates, residents, or detainees to the corrections facility. The reporting mechanism must be easy for members of the public to find and use. Third-party reports are treated as seriously as any other report, even in the absence of a named victim or abuser.</p> <p>This standard increases transparency and provides another reporting method for inmates who may not believe that reporting directly to facility staff is a viable option.</p> <p>(See the conversation around third-party reporting in the final PREA standards at http://1.usa.gov/1EzE4II.)</p> <p>Interpretation</p> <p>Corrections facilities must accept third-party reports and initiate an investigation, as they would if the report was made directly by the victim.</p> <p>Third-party reports are new for many agencies, where the custom has been that if there is not an identified victim making a report, there is no crime to investigate. The third-party report mechanism should be simple and easy to use and all staff need to understand that third-party reports must be taken seriously.</p> <p>Examples</p> <p>A mother receives a letter from her son, an inmate at a state prison, in which he explains that his cellmate is sexually abusing him. She finds a reporting number on the Department of Corrections website and calls to make a report.</p>

⁴§ 115.54/115.154/115.254/115.354 Third-party reporting.

The agency shall establish a method to receive third-party reports of sexual abuse and sexual harassment and shall distribute publicly information on how to report sexual abuse and sexual harassment on behalf of an inmate.

	<p>While attending a workshop on resume writing, a resident of a community confinement facility tells her instructor that she has been sexually harassed by a staff member. The instructor sends an email to his contact at the facility, who forwards the report to the unit manager.</p> <p>A detainee in a lockup tells his public defender that a detention officer turned a blind eye while a transgender woman housed in a nearby cell was sexually abused by another detainee. The attorney makes a report to the shift commander, without disclosing which client told her what happened.</p>
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Case Studies

The following three case studies illustrate the ways in which the PREA standards would apply in juvenile and adult facilities. Using realistic scenarios, these stories highlight the facility requirements under PREA that pertain to victim services and inmate reporting of sexual abuse. Whenever Petra, Brian, or Lamar — the subjects of the case studies — access a crisis service or make use of a reporting channel, the relevant provision of the standard is listed. Corrections officials and victim service organizations can use the scenarios to help understand how standards §115.51(b), §115.53, and §115.54 work in practice.

Case Study: Petra — Adult Female

After Petra hangs up the telephone, a sick feeling forms in the pit of her stomach. A week has passed, and she still has not told her sister. Once again, she assured her sister that she's fine and that she's looking forward to her next visit, before changing the subject by asking about her niece and nephew. Hearing about the kids gives her hope and reminds her that she's an aunt, a sister — someone who is important to someone else.

Petra looks up and reads the phone number on the sign for the umpteenth time. She stifles a laugh at the thought of actually dialing the number. She's heard that all allegations will be investigated, even those made anonymously. She's looked at the sign so many times that she knows the number — supposedly to the local police — by heart. It's hard to believe that were she to call the number, it really would go to the police or that anything would happen — especially when Petra is certain that staff already know **(§115.51(b)/115.151(b)/115.251(b)/115.351(b), Inmate reporting)**. The air is thick and hot in the cell when Petra returns. Sally is sitting, shoulders tense, on the bunk. She's wringing her hands. She looks up when an involuntary sigh escapes Petra's lips.

"Come here," Sally says, smiling in a way that makes Petra's blood curdle. "I've had a bad day."

Sally is gone when Petra awakes. Petra makes up both bunks and gathers her things for the shower. She rolls up the clothes she was wearing last night and stuffs them into her laundry bag. She steps outside of the cell, exhaling slowly. Until now, she thought it couldn't get any worse.

Petra stands outside the showers, listening to the water run while she waits her turn. A poster hanging on the wall beside the row of showers catches her eye. She doesn't remember seeing it before. It reads, "If you need to talk to someone about sexual abuse or sexual harassment, call the rape hotline. Private, confidential, regardless of a report — information and support from trained rape crisis counselors" (**§115.53/115.253, Inmate access to outside confidential support services**).

For the rest of the day, Petra can't stop thinking about the poster. When she's working, when she's eating — the pin number for the rape hotline echoes in her head, like the words to a familiar song. That night, she begins writing a letter to her sister, which always calms her. She starts the letter the usual way — complaining about the food, asking about her niece and nephew — but, without even thinking about it, she writes about her plan to call the hotline. Then she tells her sister the painful thing that she's been holding in for so long: Sally, her cellmate, has been sexually abusing her.

Sally has an AA meeting that evening. Without Sally monitoring her every move, Petra can leave the cell to make a phone call. She doesn't need to look at the poster: the number is etched in her brain. A woman named Geri answers the line. "Sexual abuse hotline, can I help you?" Petra holds her breath. Her mind has gone completely blank. As she starts to put the phone down, Geri says, "Take your time. I'm here to listen" (**115.53/115.253, Inmate access to outside confidential support services**).

Once she starts talking, she can't stop. Inmates only get 20 minutes per call, but she's able to tell Geri everything: how Sally blackmailed and threatened her, how she was sure she could handle it, how her plan was simply to count the days until she got home to her family. That was how she decided to cope, she told Geri, but then last night, she had realized that she couldn't go on anymore.

Petra barely remembers anything that Geri said, only that she listened. But she does remember a few crucial details from the call, including the steps for how to report sexual abuse, and what to expect should she decide to make a report.

Two days later, Petra leaves her cell and walks to the telephone. Her heart is pounding. It's late on a Friday evening, so she expects that her call will go to a voice mail. That's fine with her. She's not sure she'd be able even to say her name to a live person. The voice mail message asks for basic

information — name, inmate number, the nature of the report. Petra shares these details in her message and then hangs up, relieved not to have had to get into specifics about the abuse (**§115.51/115.151/115.251, Inmate reporting**). When Petra returns to the cell, Sally is there. Petra feels dizzy — she's sure that Sally will know what she just did. But Sally is asleep and Petra chokes back a sob of relief.

Sally has not spoken to Petra in three days. Petra is sure Sally sees the silence as a punishment, but Petra is more anxious about what will happen next — when Sally breaks her silence. If that were not enough, the stress of wondering what will happen with the report she made is almost more than she can take.

Petra is on her way to GED class when her name is called, summoning her to medical.

At medical, Petra is greeted by a nurse, who walks with her to an exam room. Inside, there's a man and a woman, both officers. The woman is wearing the uniform of the prison investigative squad; the man is wearing a city police uniform. They ask her to sit down. The woman officer introduces herself, but Petra's mind is racing so fast that she doesn't catch her name. What she does hear is that her sister called the facility to report what Petra wrote in her letter. The woman officer, from the facility, has Petra's letter in her hand (**§115.54/115.154/115.254/, Third-party reporting**). The police officer adds that the police picked up her voice mail message (**§115.51(b)/115.151(b)/115.251(b), Inmate reporting**). Then, before saying anything else, the police officer asks Petra whether she would like a rape crisis advocate for support during the interview. He hands her a brochure with the name and number of the sexual abuse hotline she called the other day.

Petra says she would like to talk to a counselor later, but is fine to start the interview now. Suddenly, she's never felt more ready for anything in her life.

Case Study: Brian — Male Juvenile

At 1500 hours sharp, dozens of cell doors slam shut in unison, signaling a shift change and the end of quiet time. Brian had intended to catch up on his homework during the one-hour window between school and afternoon shift groups. He does not remember falling asleep, but he must have drifted off because he dreamed that he was back at Ms. Davis's house — the one foster home where he felt like he belonged.

He swings his legs onto the floor and rifles through school papers, looking for his points sheet.

"It's Friday, gentlemen," Mr. Ramirez calls out. For a CO, Mr. Ramirez is all right; he treats the boys with respect and usually makes sure they get outside for some basketball or soccer. "Please sit up on your bed for count," he says to the residents.

"Female on the wing. Decency required," shouts out another voice — Miss O'Connell.

There's something about her, though he can't quite put his finger on what it is. All the boys feel this way. There are whispered warnings: about changing your clothes in the bathroom when she's on duty. One boy joked to Brian that she thinks everything is an emergency, just so she has a reason to pat you down. Brian once heard that if you want extra snacks or more time during a visit, she will help you out — but for a price.

It's no big deal. Get over it. Be a man. She barely touched you, he tells himself.

The words run through Brian's head all night and the next morning while he watches his peers get ready for Saturday visits. He rarely gets visits, so he'll spend the time catching up on homework.

It's no big deal. Get over it. Be a man.

Brian pounds his fist into his forehead in frustration. The last thing he needs is another secret to keep. He's already been watching his every word about his life before this place, making sure no one knows he's gay, or thinks he might be. He hasn't even told his counselor. Now, thinking about yesterday and what happened, he thinks he might explode with the weight of a second big secret. It's better not to tell anyone in here either secret, he concludes.

"Washington," Mr. Jones, the dayshift supervisor, shouts. "You have a visit."

Brian leaps off his bed. He can't quite believe it and, for a moment, he wonders if Miss O'Connell could be pulling something. After all, she said she would do him a favor if he was "nice" to her and kept quiet about it. His door buzzes and clicks and he steps into the hallway.

"Who is it?" Brian asks.

"Ms. Davis," says Mr. Jones. "Your old foster mom."

Brian didn't go into the visit intending to say anything to Ms. Davis, but somewhere in between getting news about his foster sister and telling Ms. Davis about school, his mouth had taken over and he'd spilled everything.

"Please don't say anything," Brian pleads. "It will make it worse."

"Brian," Ms. Davis says, in that voice that means there's no arguing. His stomach starts to hurt. "This isn't something I can keep to myself and I think you know that. It's still my job to look out for you, whether you live with me or not."

"Please don't tell Mr. Jones," Brian says, feeling more desperate. Miss O'Connell will probably be on this afternoon. Mr. Jones will tell her and she'll have time to get her story straight. They will never believe him over her. "They all think all we do is lie."

"Oh, honey," says Ms. Davis, and for a moment Brian thinks she won't tell. "I wasn't going to tell you this yet, because nothing is set. I talked to your counselor and your probation officer. I'm not making any promises, but if we can work it out, and if you agree, I'd like you to come back with me after you get out of here. Your counselor put me on your family list so you can call me and we can start family therapy to work on you coming home — if you want."

"Wow. Thank you." Brian's eyes start to sting. He blinks furiously to stop himself from crying.

Ms. Davis pauses to let Brian collect himself. "I'm telling you this now because your counselor also gave me all of the family information, about rights and responsibilities," she says. "They included a number I can call to report concerns. What I want to do is walk right out of this room and give that Mr. Jones a piece of my mind, but if it will make you feel safer, I can wait until I get home and call the number. I have to tell you, I am going to call today. This is not a secret I can keep" (**§115.354, Third-party reporting**).

Normally, a lockdown on a weekend afternoon would put Brian in a terrible mood. Today, it is a relief. He doesn't know what it's about, and he could not care less. He ignores the whispering in the vents from the other boys, who are trying to figure out what is going on. Brian has too many things running through his brain to fit in anything else.

The last thing that Ms. Davis said — besides that she would see him next week, which he still can't quite believe — was that it would be a good idea for him to tell someone at the facility. If he did not want to tell the staff on the unit, he could tell his counselor, or someone else he trusted.

Back on his first day, the staff gave him a bunch of information and showed him a video. They told him that he has the right to be safe. Brian hadn't given any of it a second thought until now. He hadn't needed to. He still wasn't sure whether what happened to him qualified as "not safe." Miss O'Connell hadn't actually hurt him or even really threatened him.

Brian pulls out his storage bin from under the bed. At the very bottom are the papers from that first day. One of the booklets starts with the words, "You have the right to be safe." He never read it all the way through. He does now. When he closes it, he knows that what happened to him counts as not being safe. He rips off the page in the booklet with two addresses on it.

The first letter he writes is to The Center for Healing. The letter is short. He writes only that he would like some more information. The booklet says he can write confidentially, as he could to his lawyer. It also says that they will write back with support and information about dealing with sexual abuse and sexual harassment. There's a hotline number with a note that you can call just to talk — without having to give your name. But Brian would rather write for now **(§115.353, Resident access to outside confidential support services)**. The idea of having to say this stuff out loud on the phone, when staff might hear him... well, he's not going to risk it.

His second letter is to the Child Protection Agency. They have a hotline, too. They say that it's not monitored. Still, Brian would rather not take the chance. Their booklet says that residents can report sexual abuse or sexual harassment to the agency, and that they will follow up on all reports **(§115.351, Resident reporting)**. Just in case the facility decides to ignore Ms. Davis's call, he decides to write to them, too.

Brian is in mid-sentence when he realizes that, in one short afternoon, he has gone from telling himself to get over the abuse to being determined to see something done about it. All the kids know about Ms. O'Connell; the staff must know too. If Brian can help stop this, it will be worth it. Ms. Davis will be so proud of him. That's what she told him, anyway.

There's a knock at his door and the announcement of, "Female on the wing." The lockdown hasn't cleared, and Brian wonders for a second if he's the reason for it.

Brian hears a voice on the other side of the door. It's Mr. Jones. "Sit up on your bed," Mr. Jones tells him. After waiting a minute, Mr. Jones opens the door. "Put on your shoes. We are still on lockdown, so any loitering or talking in the hallway and any failure to follow directions will be considered a major disciplinary. The on-call Resident's Rights Officer is here on the unit to see you."

Brian stuffs both of the letters into his pocket and follows Mr. Jones.

Case Study: Lamar — Adult Male

As he sits shackled to the bench in the jail booking area, Lamar wonders whether he is the only person wearing orange who is glad to be here. It has been nearly a year since he was in this county jail. The timing makes him reflect on the past year and his time in prison since he walked through the jail doors and into the prison van. He always thought he would be able to handle himself in prison, and that turned out to be true for the most part.

"Simpson, Lamar," calls the booking officer.

Lamar waits while the officer unshackles him from the bench. At the booking counter, the officer, whose name badge says "Alexander," goes through all the information the prison sent over.

"You here for court?" Officer Alexander asks.

"Yeah, appealing my case," says Lamar.

Officer Alexander laughs, but not mockingly, adding, "Good luck with that."

Lamar has been hopeful about his appeal since he found out five months ago that it would be heard. Now, given the events of the last two weeks, he feels like this hearing is a matter of life or death, or at least his sanity.

"Do you have any concerns about your safety, about where you're housed, while you're here?" asks Officer Alexander.

Lamar shakes his head. "Not here."

"Okay," Officer Alexander says, handing Lamar a folded pamphlet. "I know you know the drill, but I have to review it with you. We don't tolerate any sexual abuse or sexual harassment in here. You have a right to be safe. If anyone sexually abuses you, or threatens to, or sexually harasses you, you can tell any staff. You can also call the District Attorney's Office crime tip line. The number's in the pamphlet, right here (**§115.51(b), Inmate reporting**). You could also ask a family member, friend, or someone like your attorney to make a report for you (**§115.51(c), Third-party reporting**). If you need to talk to someone about sexual abuse or sexual harassment, to get support confidentially, you can call the local rape crisis center's hotline by dialing the number on the back of the pamphlet. It's free from any inmate phone (**§115.53, Inmate access to outside confidential support services**). Do you understand everything I've told you?"

"Uh, yeah," says Lamar, folding the pamphlet until it's small enough to fit in his closed fist.

"Sign here, then."

The anonymity provided by the 16-man dorm is a relief to Lamar. He can fade into the corner and, so far, keep to himself. He curls up on the bunk and tries to sleep. The long, jostling ride in the transport van from the prison was exhausting, and he has important meetings tomorrow.

Lamar closes his eyes and feels his body relax into sleep.

Suddenly, a deep voice rouses him. Images of Samuel, his cellmate at prison, flash in his mind. His heart starts to pound and he can't catch his breath. He grips the blanket, digging his nails into his palms to make the images go away. Samuel is not here, he tells himself.

Lamar swings his feet onto the floor and rests his head in his hands. A piece of crumpled paper falls off the bed and onto the floor. Lamar picks up the pamphlet that Officer Alexander gave him. Concentrating on making the paper completely smooth helps him to bring his breathing back to normal, but he's certain he won't fall back to sleep.

The dorm is quiet. The others are either reading or sleeping. Lamar glances at the clock —it's about 20 minutes until count and lights out. The bank of telephones is at the other end of the dorm, near the now empty bathroom. He pushes himself off the bunk and walks to the phones.

He dials the number of the sexual assault crisis line on the pamphlet, entering the code that makes the call both free and confidential (**§115.53, Inmate access to outside confidential support**

services). A man picks up, and introduces himself as "Timothy." As soon as Lamar hears the man's voice, he realizes he doesn't want to talk about it. He's sure that if he mentions the nightmares and the images he just can't get out of his head, he will fall apart. He tells Timothy that he needs to figure out what to do. As he starts talking he finds himself saying out loud, to the voice on the other end of the line, things he never thought he'd dare speak about. He tells Timothy that Samuel held a shank to his throat and forced him to give him a blow job.

"That must have been terrifying," Timothy says. He doesn't sound shocked or horrified; he sounds like he cares.

"I thought it would be just the one time. I thought I'd kill someone before ever doing that, but I knew he had a knife, even if he didn't pull it out every time. And he said he'd tell everyone on the unit that I liked it," Lamar explains. He feels sick. He waits for Timothy to tell him that the abuse is his own fault, for letting it happen nearly every night for two weeks.

"It sounds like you're feeling trapped," Timothy says.

"I am," says Lamar, struggling to keep his voice down. That's exactly it, he thinks to himself. That's what's making him feel crazy. He can't imagine how this could be his life now. "I can't tell anyone there, but I have to do something."

"If you do want to report, we could talk about how you can do that in the jail, while you're there," says Timothy.

"I don't know." Lamar hesitates. He cannot imagine walking up to a CO and blurting out that he has been sexually abused.

Timothy seems to know what he's thinking because he says, "If you don't want to tell an officer, you can call the crime tip line (**§115.51(b), Inmate reporting**) or you can tell someone you know, like a family member, and ask them to make a report (**§115.51(c), Third-party reporting**). Sometimes it's easier for people to tell someone outside of the jail first."

"Can you report for me?" Lamar asks.

"No, I can't do that. This is a confidential line and I'm bound by state law to keep everything between us, except if you tell me you plan to harm yourself or someone else, or that a child is in danger. There are lots of other ways to report, though, and you can always call this line back for support. Do you want to know what will happen next if you report?" Timothy asks.

"Sure," Lamar says. He realizes that this was a key reason — the not knowing — that he had kept quiet. He had no idea what would happen at the prison if he came forward.

Timothy obviously knew about the jail and he listed all of the same ways to report that Officer Alexander had told Lamar about earlier. Lamar considered each possibility. Telling a CO is out. He doesn't want to see the look in their eyes.

"I'm going to see my lawyer tomorrow," Lamar tells Timothy. "Could I tell her?"

"Yes," says Timothy. "You can tell your lawyer, and give her permission to report on your behalf. The facility will have to follow up on the report just as if you had made it yourself (**§115.51(c), Third-party reporting**). In fact, your lawyer could either call the prison where it happened or tell staff at the jail after your meeting."

"Okay," Lamar says. He pauses. There's still the problem of looking his lawyer in the eye as he tells her.

"Your other option is the crime tip line. The number is on the pamphlet they gave you at booking, and the tip line will inform the jail about your report. It's my understanding that the jail then has 72 hours to inform the prison of your report — so the prison will get your report while you're still at the jail. Do you want to hear about how an investigation usually goes, or is that too much right now?"

Lamar is suddenly exhausted. He feels the energy drain from him. He's got enough to think about.

"Thanks," Lamar says, "but I think I've got to go for now. I appreciate all the information."

"No problem. That's why we're here. Feel free to call back if you need anything else."

"I can't go back there." Lamar stops and looks around the room. He almost expects to see someone else in the room — someone other than him who said those words. He'd been in the middle of telling Ms. Chavez, his lawyer, about the morning he was arrested, going over it for the hundredth time when the image of him walking back into that prison, knowing who waited for him in the cell, pushed everything else out of his mind.

Lamar expects Ms. Chavez to get frustrated, to tell him not to think about anything but the appeal. He must look more alarmed than he knows, because she sets her always-sharp pencil down on the yellow legal pad, turns off her voice recorder, and looks him in the eye. "What's going on?" she asks.

Lamar tells Ms. Chavez the basics. He doesn't get into the same level of detail that he did with the counselor over the phone. He has to look his lawyer in the face in court tomorrow, after all.

Ms. Chavez clicks the recorder back on. "Lamar, based on our conversation, I am going to inform the Commander of this jail that you just told me about a crime committed against you at the prison. Do I have your permission to do that?"

"Yes, ma'am," says Lamar, feeling that the importance of the moment called for formality.

Lamar's not sure what he expected — the sky to fall or trumpets to sound, something grander than going back to his bunk to find a sack lunch waiting for him. He did it, and now there's no going back.

On the way back from seeing his attorney, Lamar decided that, if he doesn't hear anything about the report before tomorrow's court date, he'll call the crime tip line. But it turns out he doesn't need to. Later that day, the booking officer who took his information yesterday morning — Officer Alexander — walks into the unit with an official-looking clipboard in hand and asks Lamar to follow him to an interview room.