

NATIONAL
PREA
RESOURCE
CENTER



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

PREA COMPLIANCE AUDIT TOOL – INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREA AUDIT TOUR

Lockup Facilities

06/27/2014

§ 115.401 Frequency and scope of audits.

(h) The auditor shall have access to, and shall observe, all areas of the audited facilities.

The standards require the auditor to observe all areas of the audited facility. The instructions that follow are designed to highlight those areas of the facility that must be observed carefully in order to verify compliance with the standards. However, every area of the facility should be observed as the standard requires, and in every instance the auditor should be paying attention to how well supervised detainees are, and notice blind-spots and any other indicators that an area of the facility is not being monitored in a way that keeps detainees safe from sexual abuse. It may be necessary to go back and look at areas of the facility after the tour if review of investigative files, other documentation, or interviews lead the auditor to have questions about the safety and supervision provided in a given area of the facility.

AREAS TO BE TOURED:

- 1) Intake/reception/screening area
- 2) All housing/cell areas
- 3) Areas that were renovated, modified, or expanded

1) Things to look for and questions to ask in the intake/reception area:

LOOK

Do detainees coming into the facility have private toilets?

Are there cameras or other monitoring systems in the intake area if there is one? How are they supervised?

Where are detainee files kept and who has access?

Observe screening process if possible.

Observe delivery of zero-tolerance policy to detainees upon entry to the facility if possible.

Review files kept in the intake area and look for PREA-related screening instrument(s) and any indication of decision making based on that screening.

ASK

Staff responsible for detainee screening:

Do you ask detainees direct questions to determine whether they are at risk for sexual abuse or predatory behavior?

Where are screening forms kept and who has access to them?

What do you do with information you receive during screening that suggests a detainee might be at risk for sexual abuse or for abusing other detainees?

Do you tell detainees about the agency's zero-tolerance policy toward sexual abuse and sexual harassment?

Do you tell detainees how to report sexual abuse or sexual harassment to an outside entity?

2) Things to look for and questions to ask in the housing/cell areas:

LOOK

Are there signs telling detainees of their right to be free of sexual abuse?

Are there signs telling detainees how to report incidents of sexual abuse?

Where are cameras placed? Do they have a line of sight into rooms and/or toilet and shower areas?

ASK

Officers on duty:

Are vulnerable detainees under heightened protection? If so, how is this protection provided?

Detainees:

Do you know how to report an incident of sexual abuse?

Can you change your clothes, shower, and use the toilet without officers of the opposite gender watching you?

3) Things to look for and questions to ask in areas that have been renovated, modified, or expanded since August 20, 2012:

Look

Have new or renovated areas been designed to ensure adequate supervision/monitoring of detainees?

Are there new video monitoring systems, electronic surveillance systems, or other monitoring technologies that have been installed since August 20, 2012, or since the last PREA audit, and, if so, are they used in a manner that maximizes the safety of inmates from sexual abuse?

Ask

Security staff

What kind of analysis was done to inform decisions about design of new or renovated areas of the facility?

What kind of analysis was done to inform placement/deployment of video monitoring systems, electronic surveillance systems, or other monitoring technologies?