



POWER HOUR

Chat with a PREA Expert

115.18

Upgrades to Facilities and
Technologies

September 14, 2021

IMPACT/JUSTICE

NATIONAL
PREA
RESOURCE
CENTER



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National PREA Resource Center Mission

The mission of the PRC is to assist adult prisons and jails, juvenile facilities, lockups, community confinement, and tribal facilities in their efforts to eliminate sexual abuse by increasing their capacity for prevention, detection, monitoring, responses to incidents, and services to victims and their families.

Logistics

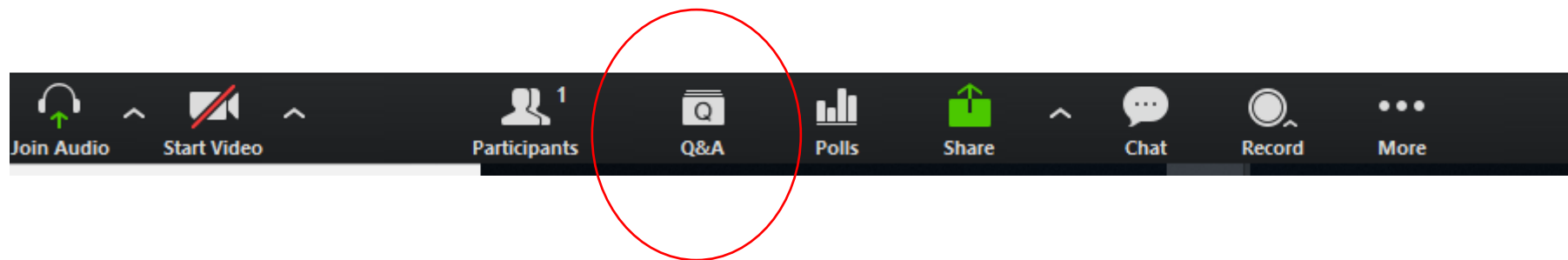
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- Please contact the ZoomPro webinar support line at 888-799-9666; select “2” when prompted to get support with technical difficulties.
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Logistics

Submitting questions

- To submit a question during the webinar, use the Q&A feature on your webinar toolbar, as seen below.
- Presenters will address the questions at the end of the presentation.



COVID-19 disclaimer

This webinar is designed to provide guidance related to compliance with **Standard 115.18** in general and will not specifically address concerns or answer questions related to COVID-19.

The PREA Resource Center (PRC) recognizes that coming into compliance or maintaining compliance with this Standard and others during the COVID-19 crisis presents specific challenges that you may not have faced before. If you have questions related to compliance during this crisis, please direct them to the PRC via “Contact us,” and they will be shared with the PREA Management Office (PMO).

Or you may contact the PMO directly at PREACompliance@usdoj.gov.

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Standard requirements



§ 115.18, 115.118, 115.218, 115.318

- When designing or acquiring any new facility and in planning any substantial expansion or modification of existing facilities, the agency **shall consider** the effect of the design, acquisition, expansion, or modification upon the agency's ability to protect inmates from sexual abuse.
- When installing or updating a video monitoring system, electronic surveillance system, or other monitoring technology, the agency **shall consider** how such technology may enhance the agency's ability to protect inmates from sexual abuse.

Purpose of the Standard

To ensure that agencies take sexual safety into consideration when making decisions about upgrades to facilities and technologies, the acquisition of new facilities, and during the process of designing any new facility or expansion of an existing facility.

Implementation

When designing or acquiring new facilities or making modifications to existing facilities, agency decision-makers must examine how the changes will impact the agency's ability to protect inmates from sexual abuse.

- Evaluate plans and designs for flaws that could put inmates at risk for sexual abuse (e.g., blind spots).
- Agency staff who are educated about the dynamics of sexual abuse in confinement must be part of the design and planning team to ensure that sexual safety is considered (e.g., eliminating blind spots).

Implementation (cont.)

Agencies must also think through how any new or updated video monitoring technology or electronic surveillance systems can be deployed to enhance prevention and detection of sexual abuse.

- Determine how the new systems can be used to enhance sexual safety (e.g., positioning cameras, ensuring that areas where a staff person may be alone with an inmate/resident have video monitoring if possible).
- Consider any accommodations to ensure compliance with § 115.15's limitations on cross-gender viewing when using video monitoring technology. (See this FAQ: <https://www.prearesourcecenter.org/node/3315>.)

Implementation (cont.)

- Importantly, this Standard does not impose a requirement on agencies to build new facilities or renovate existing facilities to address the physical plant challenges of older facilities or to retrofit existing facilities with monitoring technology to eliminate blind spots or supplement staff supervision.
- Like § 115.13, which requires agencies to consider their need for and deployment of video monitoring technology to supplement staffing plans, § 115.18 requires agencies to consider how upgrades to facilities and technologies can promote sexual safety whenever the opportunity for upgrades arises.

Challenges

- Keeping sexual safety in mind amid other competing priorities when considering new construction or technology upgrades.
- Ensuring that any monitoring technology is used to supplement staff supervision, not replace it.
- Ensuring that staff responsible for facility design upgrades and the placement of monitoring technology have a sophisticated understanding of the dynamics of sexual abuse in confinement so that they appropriately apply that knowledge.

Best practices

When making decisions about upgrades to facilities and technologies, include the PREA Coordinator (PC) and/or PREA Compliance Manager (PCM) in the planning and decision-making process.

- Capitalize on the expertise of your PC or PCM to assess potential upgrades for whether they enhance or hinder the agency's ability to protect inmates from sexual abuse.
- PREA staff should be considered subject matter experts just as security staff would be on other security-related decisions.

Best practices (cont.)

- During planning and design of a new or upgraded facility or enhanced technology, the agency should run scenarios that include potential incidents of sexual abuse to determine whether the planned designs or anticipated use of technology would ensure or enhance sexual safety for inmates, residents, and detainees.
- The agency should look at creative, cost-effective ways to address blind spots in the facility that might jeopardize sexual safety when available staffing is limited, such as installing mirrors.
- Consider installing doors with windows on storerooms/offices for quick security checks. Identify spaces where movement is minimal and use of the space or area is infrequent and consider ways to deter sexual activity. Such methods might include ensuring that these areas are included on the unannounced rounds conducted and documented by intermediate, or higher-level supervisors as required by Standard 115.13(d); or perhaps motion-activated cameras can also be installed in these areas.

Best practices (cont.)

- Efforts made pursuant to this Standard not only improve sexual safety but might reduce assaults and address other security weaknesses; and the overall safety benefits of compliance with this Standard could be used by the agency to support spending on staff time, staff training, and any other costs associated with compliance.

Audit issues

- PREA auditors will review documentation related to facility upgrades or technologies and interview staff and leaders involved in the planning process to determine whether the agency has considered how they impact sexual safety.
- **Documentation** may include meeting minutes from planning and design meetings, contracting documents, design specifications, documentation of the agency's communications with planners and architects about the PREA Standards and sexual safety operations, and/or a comprehensive plan that explicitly describes the ways that sexual safety was considered in the planning of upgrades or technology.

Audit issues

- If a facility or renovation is new, the auditor may ask to interview members of the planning, construction monitoring, and transition teams about sexual safety discussions and decisions.
- § 115.13 requires that facilities develop a staffing plan that includes, where applicable, the use of video monitoring to protect inmates from sexual abuse. Auditors will not only be looking to confirm that the facility considered sexual safety in upgrades to technology under § 115.18 but will also look at the facility's staffing plan to ensure that it integrates existing or future video monitoring technology to enhance sexual safety.

Variations by facility type

- In addition to **Prisons and Jails**, the requirements in § 115.18 apply to:
 - **Lockups** (§ 115.118)
 - **Community Confinement Facilities** (§ 115.218)
 - **Juvenile Facilities** (§ 115.318)

Resources

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the National PREA Resource Center website:
<https://www.prearesourcecenter.org/frequently-asked-questions>
- The Department of Justice has issued guidance on whether auditors can require the installation of monitoring technology as part of a corrective action plan, which intersects with the requirements of Standard § 115.18. The FAQ to date is as follows:

September 23, 2014. Is it ever appropriate for auditors to require the installation of cameras as part of a corrective action plan?

<https://www.prearesourcecenter.org/node/3232>

- PREA Essentials on the National PREA Resource Center website:
www.prearesourcecenter.org/training-technical-assistance/PREA-essentials

Resources

- Always check the following sources for excellent training on PREA:
 - National Institute of Corrections - <http://nicic.gov/training/prea>
 - End Silence: The Project on Addressing Prison Rape - <https://www.wcl.american.edu/impact/initiatives-programs/endsilence/>

Questions & Answers



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Power Hour: Chat with a PREA Expert on Standard 115.32

STANDARDS:

115.32

FACILITY: Community Confinement
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PRC Website Revision: Overview and Q&A

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None

FEATURED RESOURCE

WEBINAR

Developing a PREA-Compliant Language Access Plan for Incarcerated...

STANDARDS:

115.16, 115.21, 115.51, 115.53

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Juvenile Facility

TERMS: Accessibility
Limited English proficient

TOOL: AUDIT

Audit Report Template - Juvenile Facilities

STANDARDS:

115.401

FACILITY: Juvenile Facility

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Request for assistance

Please fill out the form below in order to request PREA-related training and/or technical assistance for your jurisdiction or agency. The more detail provided in your request will improve the PREA Resource Center's (PRC) ability to meet your needs. For jurisdictions less familiar with PREA, the PRC would encourage you to browse the resources on the [Where to begin page](#). If your jurisdiction has general questions or comments for the PRC you can communicate those through the [Contact us form](#).

To submit information on complaints or concerns about the conduct of a DOJ-certified PREA auditor, please refer to the [Auditor feedback form](#).

The PRC collects the information below in order to efficiently route and respond to inquiries. While all fields are not required, please fill out as much information as possible so that we may better assist you.

Request assistance

Jurisdictions can request assistance by completing a web form on the PRC website under the “Implementation” tab and clicking “Request for assistance” under “Training.”

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For more information about the National PREA Resource Center, visit www.prearesourcecenter.org.

To ask a question, please visit our [Contact us](#) page.

Thank you!



Good luck!

Notice of federal funding and federal disclaimer

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