



How to avoid sexual abuse:

Do not accept canteen items or favors from anyone. Placing yourself in debt to another offender can lead to the belief/expectation that you will repay the debt with sexual favors.

Do not accept an offer from another offender for protection.

Walk and stand with confidence. Many abusers choose victims who look like they won't stand up for themselves.

Avoid casual nudity and talking about sex. The abuser may use this as an excuse to commit sexual assault.

Be aware of situations that make you uncomfortable. Trust your instincts. If it feels wrong, LEAVE.

Avoid secluded areas. Position yourself in plain view of staff members. If you are being pressured for sex, report it immediately.

Don't be afraid to say "NO."

What you should know if you are a perpetrator of sexual abuse:

Sexual abuse does not have to be a violent act. If the victim feels they would be physically harmed if they refused ... it is sexual abuse.

An investigation will be conducted and the Department of Corrections will seek prosecution for perpetrators of sexual abuse.

If you are found guilty of sexual abuse, you will face life-long reporting requirements as a sex offender.

The Missouri Department of Corrections has Zero Tolerance for offender sexual abuse.

Reporting sexual abuse is a serious allegation and will be treated as such.

False reporting will carry serious consequences.

Offender Sexual Abuse

What you need to know

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Missouri
Department of Corrections
Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, Governor
George A. Lombardi, Director*

While in the Missouri Department of Corrections, you have the right to be free from *sexual abuse*.

What is offender sexual abuse?

Sexual abuse is defined as any type of unwanted sexual contact. This includes contact or penetration of the anus or vagina with the penis, finger or other object.

Sexual abuse includes unwanted sexual touching of the genitals, breasts, inner thigh or buttocks, either directly or through clothing.

When sexual contact is accomplished through fear, threat of bodily harm or implied threat, it is considered sexual abuse.

What is staff sexual misconduct?

It is against Missouri state law for a department staff member, contractor or volunteer to engage in any type of behavior or act of a sexual nature with an offender. This includes sexual touching and attempted, threatened or requested sexual acts and voyeurism.

Voyeurism by a staff member, contractor or volunteer means an invasion of an inmate's privacy by staff for reasons unrelated to official duties, such as peering at an inmate who is using a toilet in his or her cell to perform bodily functions.

What do you do if you are sexually abused?

If you have just been abused, *get to a safe place*.

Although you may have been threatened and you may be scared, you must *report the sexual abuse immediately*.

The Department of Corrections provides several ways to report sexual abuse:

- Report the abuse to a staff person you trust, such as your case manager, custody staff, chaplain, medical or mental health professional.
- You can also report the abuse by calling the department's confidential PREA hotline, 573•526•PREA (7732), from any offender phone.

If you have been the victim of sexual abuse,

DO NOT:

- Shower,
- Brush your teeth,
- Use the restroom, or
- Change your clothes.

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

Remember:

The longer you wait to report the abuse, the more power you give to the abuser.

What happens after you report sexual abuse?

You will be separated from the alleged abuser immediately.

Medical personnel will be notified and you will receive a physical examination. You will be assessed for injuries or exposure to sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and any evidence will be sent to the crime lab.

You will be referred to a mental health professional for assessment and ongoing mental health treatment, as necessary.

It is very important that you work with the investigator and provide all the information regarding the abuser and the incident.

Your allegation of sexual assault will be investigated and if possible, the abuser will be prosecuted.

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*Reporting sexual abuse
is the first step
on the road to recovery.*

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