

Any sexual interaction between inmates is prohibited.

It is a FELONY for RIDOC staff to engage in sexual relations with inmates. Consent is NOT a defense.

### You need to know...

If there is a substantiated claim of sexual assault or rape on an inmate by another inmate or by a staff member, the guilty person(s) will be punished to the highest degree, up to and including criminal prosecution.

RIDOC makes every effort to maintain the confidentiality of victims.

All allegations and suspicions of sexual contact must be reported, and all reports will be investigated.

### Did you know...?

It is YOUR responsibility to report all incidents of sexual contact.

## Disclosures

Disclosing sexual assault is a very difficult experience. For an inmate who discloses, the usual feelings of guilt, shame, and fear of being judged may be compounded with concerns for safety, health, and the future. Please keep the following things in mind when working with a victim:

***Rape is never the victim's fault. Anyone can be a victim of sexual assault.***

***Do not be judgmental.*** Avoid questioning a victim about choices he or she made or actions he or she took. Hindsight is 20/20, and it is unfair to blame victims for decisions they made in the midst of a trauma.

***Actively listen to the victim.*** Acknowledge what he or she is saying.

***Put all biases aside.*** Your role is to listen and respond by providing safety, health, and medical needs for the alleged victim.

### Did you know...?

90 to 95% of men who are raped do not report it. Why? They may:

- Sense discomfort in others
- Be embarrassed
- Think it admits weakness
- Fear more abuse
- Think nobody will believe them

# Sexual Assault Awareness

**STOP** sexual assault before it begins...  
**START** with knowledge

*Creating a culture of safety at the RIDOC*



*A guide for staff of the Rhode Island Department of Corrections*

## Introduction

*The RIDOC is committed to the prevention of sexual assault, and promotes the safety and protection of all inmates. This brochure provides basic information about sexual assault and RIDOC policies. This information will help you to recognize and help victims, prevent assaults from happening, and ensure perpetrators are held accountable for their actions.*

*The RIDOC's policies are consistent with the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). This program is made possible by PREA and a partnership with Day One (The Sexual Assault & Trauma Resource Center).*

## Procedures

### *What to do if you become aware of an assault*

If you, as a staff member, know or suspect that there has been a sexual assault, you must notify the appropriate authority:

→ Staff who report to shift commanders and wardens must notify them of the alleged assault. All other staff must notify Special Investigations Unit directly (401-462-2282).

→ You must also secure (or arrange to secure) for the safety of the victim. In most cases this means bringing them to the Health Services Unit.

*Note: Voice messages and pager notifications regarding alleged sexual assaults are unacceptable.*

*Actual voice contact must be made.*

***All sexual contact between inmates, and between staff and inmates, is forbidden—regardless of consent.***

## What is Sexual Assault?

*Sexual Assault is any type of sexual contact involving two or more people when at least one of the involved people does not consent.*

Sexual contact includes:

- Sexual fondling of a person
- Sexual assault with an object
- Oral sex
- Contact between penis and vulva/anus

Consent is not present if:

- Sexual contact is forced or against the person's will
- There is fear or threat of physical violence or bodily injury
- The victim is by law too young or mentally or physically incapable of consenting

### **Did you know...?**

Sexual assault is a crime of violence, power, and control, not of passion and sexual desire

*If an inmate has been forced to submit to a sexual relationship, this is sexual assault. It does not matter that the relationship may seem consensual.*

*Sexual assault is a traumatic experience and people react to it in a variety of ways.*

## Signs that someone may have been sexually assaulted

Physical symptoms may include:

- Change in sleep patterns
- Marked increase/decrease in appetite
- Poor concentration
- Feeling/acting numb or withdrawn
- Easily startled, 'jumpy'

Emotional reactions may include:

- Depression
- Guilt/self-blame
- Anger
- Anxiety
- Fear

Behavioral Reactions may include:

- Change in hygiene
- Acting out—trying to be put into segregation
- Requesting/refusing to change rooms
- Requesting lab work for sexually transmitted diseases
- Hurting oneself
- Suicidal thoughts and/or attempts

### **Did you know...?**

52% of all females have experienced some sort of sexual victimization