

SPOKANE COUNTY JUVENILE COURT MISSION

The mission of the (SCJC) Spokane County Juvenile Court is to serve our community by promoting public safety, accountability, and positive change for delinquent, dependent, at-risk children and their families.

OBJECTIVE

To train and educate you on the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA) and the Court's standard concerning youth sexual abuse. Maintaining professional boundaries with youth and your duty to report incidents of youth sexual abuse.

PREA and ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA) is a Federal law established to address the elimination and prevention of sexual assault and rape in correctional systems. PREA applies to all federal, state, and local prisons, jails, juvenile detention facilities, police lock-ups, private facilities, and community settings such as residential facilities.

In response to PREA, Spokane County Juvenile Court has committed to a standard of **zero tolerance** of sexual abuse and harassment of youth by court and custody employees, other youth, non-paid volunteer staff, and contracted staff.

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS CONSENSUAL SEX BETWEEN STAFF AND YOUTH

Sexual abuse encompasses the following:

1. Youth on Youth sexual abuse
2. Youth on Youth Sexual Harassment
3. Staff on Youth Sexual Abuse includes
 - Sexually abusive contact
 - Penetration
 - Indecent exposure
 - Voyeurism
 - Solicitation of youth to engage in sexual contact or penetration constitute attempted sexual abuse.
4. Staff on Youth Sexual Harassment

Staff must be aware that unprofessional relationships will not be tolerated and these relationships are criminal and may be prosecuted under state and federal statutes.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All facility employees and staff members are mandated by law to report abuse. Apart from reporting to supervisors or authorities, employees and staff are prohibited from revealing any information related to a sexual abuse report.

UNDUE FAMILIARITY

All staff and agents of the Juvenile Court shall treat youth in a firm, fair and consistent manner, and refrain from improper contact with them. Whenever there is reason to discuss a youth's problem with them, a professional attitude consistent with rules and responsibilities should be exercised. As a staff, you should not:

- Borrow anything from a youth
- Lend anything to a youth
- Accept any gift or personal service from a youth, except as specified by law, regulation or directive
- Make gifts to or perform personal services for a youth
- Use abusive, indecent or profane language in the presence of a youth
- Curse at youth, or
- Knowingly enter into a business relationship with a youth or their family member or close relative.

The information listed above is not all inclusive. When in doubt you should seek clear guidance from an agency representative before engaging in what could be viewed as misconduct later.

Red Flags

Addressing juvenile youth sexual abuse is important. While you may not be in danger of committing such an offense, one of your co-workers may be. Therefore it is very important to pay close attention to your colleagues' behavior as well as your own. The following examples are a list of behaviors that may be signs that you or someone you work with is in danger of engaging in undue familiarity and/or sexual misconduct. These behaviors or "red flags" may signal that there are problems ahead for you, your co-workers, or the agency.

RED FLAGS:

- Deviating from agency policy for the benefit of a particular youth
- Changes in the appearance of a youth, staff or volunteer
- Overlooking infractions of a youth
- Spending a lot of time with a youth
- Taking up a youth's cause or grievance
- Doing favors for a youth
- Getting into conflicts with staff over a youth
- Withdrawing from staff.
- Flirting with a youth

A DUTY TO REPORT ABUSE

As a valued agent of the Juvenile Court, you have a duty to report incidences of sexual abuse or harassment regardless of the source or if you feel a youth is in imminent danger of sexual abuse or harassment.

Some contacts for reporting include but are not limited to:

- Juvenile Court Administrator
- Judicial Officer
- Facility Detention Manager
- Shift Supervisor or Team Leader
- Probation Counselor/Supervisor
- Juvenile Corrections Officer
- Facility Nurse or MHP

You may also call Child Protective Services hotline at 1-866-END-Harm (1-866-363-4276)
or

If youth is in detention you may complete an emergency grievance form.

**REMEMBER:
YOU HAVE A DUTY TO REPORT!**



SPOKANE COUNTY JUVENILE COURT



**A Volunteer and Contracted
Staff Guide for the
Prevention and Reporting of
Sexual Abuse and Sexual
Harassment of Juveniles**

