

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was signed into Federal law in 2003 by President George W. Bush. Its rationale was to “provide for the analysis of the incidence and effects of prison rape in Federal, State, and local institutions and to provide information, resources, recommendations, and funding to protect individuals from prison rape.” (Prison Rape Elimination Act, 2003) In 2012, the U.S. Department of Justice released national PREA standards to prevent, detect and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment in confinement facilities. The Act requires all federal, state, and local corrections agencies to have a zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual abuse and sexual harassment in prisons, jails, police lock-ups, and community confinement facilities. Alternative Directions has a zero-tolerance policy relative to sexual misconduct. The facility complies with federal laws as they pertain to PREA, sexual violence and sexual misconduct.

When a report is received regarding a suspected sexual assault the CEO or PREA Coordinator will immediately contact and consult with local law enforcement in determining the most expedient and effective course of action in the investigation of the crime. All investigations into criminal allegations of sexual assault will be conducted by local law enforcement with the assistance of Alternative Directions. Alternative Directions will request that law enforcement follow the PREA standards when investigating any allegation. All information will be kept confidential to the extent allowed.

Reports can be made by community members, residents, medical personnel, or anyone with knowledge of a suspected sexual assault through the following contacts:

- Verbal or written report to any Alternative Directions staff member or volunteer
- Contact local law enforcement
- U.S. Mail, note, or any other written method
- Call the Alternative Directions PREA Coordinator, R. Hillary at 616-245-4346.
- Call the Alternative Directions CEO, M. MacDonald at 616-245-4346

Alternative Directions has been PREA certified since June 10, 2024. You may contact the agency at 616-245-4346 to obtain the report or download complete PREA policies/Reports here: