

Prison Rape Elimination Act:

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was passed by Congress in 2003. The purpose of the act is 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.” PREA requires that institutions of confinement, juvenile facilities included, adhere to stringent standards that are designed to prevent and respond to acts of sexual abuse and/or sexual harassment, together categorized as ‘sexual misconduct.’

Both the Cambria County Juvenile Detention Center and Cambria County Emergency Shelter Facility maintain a **zero-tolerance** policy in regards to sexual misconduct in any form. These facilities have developed and implemented policies and procedures in order to educate both residents and staff members about sexual misconduct. These policies and procedures are designed to prevent sexual misconduct, as well as respond to any reports of sexual misconduct. Residents at both facilities are educated upon admission as to their rights in regard to sexual misconduct, as well as how to prevent and report any incidences.

Any reports of sexual misconduct (I.E. sexual abuse and/or sexual harassment) will result in an immediate internal investigation by designated Supervisory/Administrative staff at the facilities, as well as a detective from the District Attorney’s Office. When applicable, criminal charges will be filed, regardless of whether the abuser is a resident or staff member.

In the event of a resident being sexually assaulted, medical and mental health care services will be provided to the victim through the Conemaugh Health Care system and Cambria County Victim’s Services at no charge to the victim.

Reports can be made by:

Calling the Cambria County Detention Center/Shelter Facility’s PREA coordinator at 814-472-8206

Or by:

Calling the toll free PENNSYLVANIA PREA HOTLINE at 1-866-823-6703

* Annual reports on sexual abuse at either of these facilities may be requested by the public via the facility’s Administrator. Some material such as resident names or information that may pose a threat to institutional security will have been removed from the report.