



County Technical Assistance Service  
INSTITUTE *for* PUBLIC SERVICE

July 22, 2024

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# Prisoner Rape Elimination Act

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Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website ([ctas.tennessee.edu](http://ctas.tennessee.edu)). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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Table of Contents

<b>Prisoner Rape Elimination Act .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Victim Notification .....</b>	<b>3</b>

# Prisoner Rape Elimination Act

Reference Number: CTAS-2129

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was passed in 2003. The law created the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission (NPREC) and charged it with developing standards for the elimination of sexual abuse in confinement. The law required the Department of Justice (DOJ) to review the NPREC standards, make revisions as necessary, and pass the final standards into law.

The final rule was published in the federal register on June 20, 2012, and became effective on August 20, 2012.

PREA standards apply equally to locally operated facilities, such as lockups, jails, juvenile detention centers, and locally operated residential community confinement facilities. The statute imposes certain financial consequences on states that do not comply with the standards. However, for local facilities or facilities not operated by the state, PREA provides no direct federal financial penalty for not complying.

If a local facility has a contract to hold state or federal inmates, however, it may lose that contract if it does not comply with PREA standards. If a governor should certify compliance, he/she must certify that all facilities under the state's authority, including all local facilities the state contracts with to hold inmates, are in compliance. Furthermore, states that operate unified systems must demonstrate that all state-operated facilities, including jails, comply with the PREA standards.

Finally, all agencies, state or local, have obligations under federal and state constitutions to provide safety for individuals in their custody. While PREA does not create any new cause of action, private civil litigants might assert noncompliance with PREA standards as evidence that facilities are not meeting constitutional obligations.

For information on the PREA standards, training, inspection toolkits, frequently asked questions , news and events go to the National PREA Resource Center .

Information shall be provided to inmates about sexual abuse/assault including:

- (a) Prevention/intervention;
- (b) Self-protection;
- (c) Reporting sexual abuse/assault; and,
- (d) Treatment and counseling.

This information shall be communicated in writing or electronically, in a language clearly understood by the inmate, upon arrival at the facility. Rules of the Tennessee Corrections Institute, Rule 1400-1-.13(31).

## Victim Notification

Reference Number: CTAS-2131

In accordance with TCA 40-38-103(b), upon the request of a victim of violent crime involving serious bodily injury or death of a relative, the victim shall be supplied information and a request form by the law enforcement agency responsible for the investigation of the crime or the arrest of the defendant, the sheriff or other custodian of the defendant or the victim-witness coordinator as to how the victim or relative of a victim may request and secure notification of the release from custody of an offender from a jail or detention facility prior to trial. The jailer, sheriff or other custodian of criminal offenders shall maintain a record or file of the request forms and, prior to the release of an offender about whom a notification request has been made, give immediate and prompt notice of the release to the requesting victim or family member of a victim by the most direct means available, including telephone, messenger or telegram. Any identifying information contained in the request forms shall be confidential. For purposes of this subsection (b), "identifying information" means the name, home and work addresses, telephone numbers and social security number of the person being notified or requesting that notification be provided.

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