



*Office of the  
Sheriff  
Laurens County  
Don Reynolds*



## **Compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act**

The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA) is the first federal law dealing with sexual assaults and sexual harassment of inmates. PREA aims to curb sexual assaults and harassment through a zero-tolerance policy and practice which Laurens County has adopted and put into play at the Detention Facility.

### **Agency Policy**

In compliance with Section 115.61 of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Standards the detention facility will immediately respond to allegations of sexual assaults and sexual harassment of inmates by other inmates or by staff members, fully investigate the incident, and prosecute the perpetrators where applicable.

### **Reporting Assaults**

If you suspect sexual abuse has happened at the Laurens County Detention Facility, you may call the PREA Coordinator or Jail Director at 864-683-4055 or call crime stoppers at 864-682-7463, where you can remain anonymous if you wish. Please have any information or evidence available for the investigator who will be assigned to handle the case. False accusations may be prosecuted per SC state law. All reports are taken seriously and investigated as outlined in the PREA Standards.

### **Data Review**

In compliance with 115.87 of the PREA Standards, LCDC has collected accurate, uniform data from every allegation of sexual abuse at the facilities under its control. At LCDC, we maintain, review and collect data as needed from all available incident-based documents. We have a sexual abuse incident review team in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices and training including:

- A) Staffing levels
- B) Facility design
- C) Investigative Actions

...just to name a few.

### **Referrals of Allegations**

PREA Standard 115.22 states that the agency shall ensure an administrative or criminal investigation is completed for all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment of inmates. The LCDC policy **1.08** also supports this. Once an allegation of sexual abuse or sexual harassment has been made by an inmate the following steps are taken:

- 1) The inmate is separated from the alleged abuser (safety is our main concern)
- 2) Statements are taken from the alleged victim, suspect, and witnesses
- 3) If a sexual assault (CSC) has occurred, the incident is referred to Laurens County Sheriff's Office Detectives for investigation or SLED if it involves a staff member. If the allegation is sexual harassment or inappropriate touching (which is also a form of sexual abuse) then it is also investigated by the Laurens County Sheriff's Office.
- 4) If criminal actions are found to have taken place then criminal proceedings will ensue. Inmates and staff found to be engaging in sexual relations can be prosecuted, disciplined in house and/or terminated.