

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL INMATES

**P.R.E.A.** is **The Prison Rape Elimination Act** of 2003 (42 U.S.C. § 15601 et seq.) enacted by Congress to address the problem of sexual abuse of persons in the custody of U.S. correctional agencies. The Act applies to all public and private institutions that house adult or juvenile offenders and is also relevant to community-based agencies.

It is the policy of the Merced County Sheriff's Office to maintain a zero-tolerance for inmate-on-inmate sexual assault and staff sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, and sexual harassment toward inmates as defined by The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (28 C.F.R. 115). It is the policy of the Merced County Sheriff's Office to thoroughly investigate every allegation of sexual abuse, and where warranted by evidence, proportional sanctions, up to and including criminal prosecution, are implemented.

This policy provides both an educational resource for inmates and a response plan universal for all instances of sexual abuse, sexual assault and sexual misconduct.

Inmates are encouraged to report allegations of abuse or misconduct using any of the following methods. There is no time limit for reporting allegations:

- Inmates may privately report sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, and sexual harassment, retaliation by other inmates or staff for reporting sexual abuse and sexual harassment, and staff neglect or violation of responsibilities that may have contributed to an incident of sexual abuse by any employee, volunteer or contractor.
- Anonymously: Inmates may report any concerns for himself, herself, or others anonymously by dialing **"#7732"** from any facility telephone that they are permitted to use.
- Completion of the Inmate Grievance Form
- Write a letter, phone or email to this or any other law enforcement agency.
- Report the allegation to an **officer, shift supervisor, medical staff, mental health worker or Chaplain.**
- Call the National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-4673
- Additionally, inmates may report abuse, retaliation, or harassment by writing to the Sheriff of Merced County or by contacting the California Attorney General's Public Inquiry Unit at 1-800-952-5225.

Members of the public may report allegations of misconduct by any of the following:

- letter, phone, or e-mail to this or any law enforcement agency:
- Merced County Sheriff's Office contact information:

Merced County Sheriff's Office  
700 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Merced, Ca. 95340

Merced County Sheriff Jail  
Facility Lieutenant  
700 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Merced, CA 95340

John Latorraca Correctional Center  
Facility Lieutenant  
2584 W. Sandy Mush Rd.  
Merced, Ca. 95340

Other resources for inmates or third parties include:

- *Rape Crisis Services: 1-866-UR-SAFE or 1-866-487-7233*
- *A.A.R.D.V.A.R.C. - Victim/Witness Assistance Center: 209-725-3515*
- *Valley Crisis Center: 209-725-7900*
- *Anonymous tip line (inside jail facilities): **"#7732"***