

All survivors of sexual violence deserve compassion and support. If you or your loved one has experienced rape, sexual assault, harassment, or abuse while incarcerated in Maryland, resources and support are available to you.

What is PREA?

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) is a federal law that established national standards to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and abuse in prisons, jails, and community and juvenile confinement facilities. It ensures that survivors who are incarcerated can access the same support services that rape crisis centers provide to survivors who are not incarcerated.

Confidential Advocates

If you are currently incarcerated and have experienced rape or sexual violence at any time in your life, you have the right to talk to a victim advocate from a rape crisis center. Rape crisis centers help victims of sexual abuse and harassment. They can also help victims' families.

Services are free and can include:

- Crisis Intervention: Someone to talk with when you are feeling stressed or anxious
- Safety Planning: Someone to help you make a plan to stay as safe as possible
- Individual and group counseling
- Information about referrals and other services

Confidentiality

Your facility must let you contact a victim advocate "in as confidential a manner as possible." You can ask a staff member or a victim advocate if calls or letters to a rape crisis center will be listened to or read by staff.

Victim advocates do not have to report to your facility if you tell them you were raped or sexually assaulted. However, **victim advocates are required by law to report certain types of abuse, like child abuse.** This is called **mandatory reporting.** A victim advocate will tell you what they must legally report when you talk with them.

Rape Crisis Centers

ALLEGANY

Family Crisis
Resource Center
146 Bedford Street
Cumberland, MD 21501
Hotline: 301-759-9244

CARROLL

CARE Healing Center
224 N. Center St. #102
Westminster, MD 21157
Hotline: 410-857-7322

BALTIMORE CITY

TurnAround, Inc.
1800 North Charles St.
Suite 404
Baltimore, MD 21218
Hotline: 443-279 0379

CAROLINE, DORCHESTER, KENT, QUEEN ANNE'S TALBOT

For All Seasons, Inc.
300 Talbot Street
Easton, MD 21601
Hotline: 410-820-5600

ST. MARY'S

Southern Maryland Center
for Family Advocacy
23918 Mervell Dean Rd.
Hollywood, MD 20636
Hotline: 240-925-0084

SOMERSET, WICOMICO, WORCESTER

Life Crisis Center, Inc.
P.O. Box 387
Salisbury, MD 21803
Hotline: 410-749-4357

WASHINGTON

CASA, Inc.
1 West Franklin St.
Suite 200
Hagerstown, MD 21740
Hotline: 301-739-8975

ANNE ARUNDEL

YWCA of Annapolis and
Anne Arundel
1517 Ritchie Hwy.
Suite 101
Arnold, MD 21012
Hotline: 410-222-6800

Legal Services

Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI)

SALI provides legal services to sexual assault survivors in Maryland. They can help you safety plan, work with incarceration staff on your behalf, and support you through an investigation.

301-565-2277

P.O. Box 8782, Silver Spring, MD 20907

This project was supported by VAWA-2024-0023 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.

03/2025

You Have the Right to be Free From Sexual Violence

The Prison Rape Elimination Act: A Guide for Incarcerated Survivors

MCASA
Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault

You have the right to be free from rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and retaliation for making a report.

Options to Consider if You Have Been Sexually Abused or Harassed

Medical Care & Evidence Collection

You have the right to get medical care. A sexual assault forensic exam (SAFE) is free. It is performed by specially trained medical staff.

- You have the right to refuse the exam. You can stop the exam at any time and decline any part of it.
- Physical evidence disappears quickly. SAFEs must be done within 15 days of the assault.
- Try not to eat, drink, brush your teeth, or use the bathroom before a SAFE. This may destroy evidence. **You can still receive an exam if you have done these things.**
- If you need it, you have the right to emergency contraception and sexually transmitted infection (STI) medicine. **You have a right to this medicine even if you do not name the person who assaulted you.**

You have the right to victim advocacy during a SAFE. A victim advocate can be there to support you and answer any questions you have before, during, and after the exam.

Emotional Support & Other Resources

Prison Rape and Sexual Assault Help Line 855 - 971 - 4700

If you experienced a rape or sexual assault and would like to talk to a confidential advocate, you can call the help line. Support staff can connect you to resources and support for victims of sexual assault and rape. They are here to help. This help line is a free and confidential resource for incarcerated survivors of sexual assault and rape. **This is not a reporting line.** Advocates can provide you with information on reporting and safety planning.

Sexual abuse includes any unwanted or forced sexual contact (including rape), display of private parts, or voyeurism, by a staff member, volunteer or other inmate.

Sexual harassment includes repeated and unwanted sexual comments, gestures, or actions.

The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) follows the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards. You can find out more about the PREA standards on the National PREA Resources Center website: www.prearesourcecenter.org/implementation/prea-standards/overview

Reporting Options

Maryland PREA Reporting Hotline 410 - 585 - 3177

Reporting sexual abuse, harassment, or retaliation is your choice. If you want to report your sexual assault, the Maryland PREA Reporting Hotline is available. Reporting to the hotline will start an investigation and let staff know about your experience. **This is not a confidential number-** the line is managed by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. The Reporting Hotline also accepts reports from third parties, meaning someone can report your sexual assault on your behalf. This reporting person could be another inmate, member of staff, family member, lawyer, friend, or service provider.

If you call to report your experience, be prepared to share your full name, inmate ID number, and the name of the facility. You can also report your experience anonymously, meaning you do not need to give your name. **Anonymous reports will still be investigated.**

PREA Investigations

A PREA complaint is treated differently from other reports or grievances.

- Your facility cannot make you informally resolve a PREA complaint.
- If you are housed at a juvenile facility, Maryland State Police will investigate your report.
- You can immediately file an Inmate Grievance without filing a complaint for Administrative Remedy first.
- If you do file an ARP about sexual abuse, it will be treated as a PREA report and sent to IID.

You have the right to have a victim advocate present during an interview with investigators.

During the investigation, the facility will use a **preponderance of the evidence** standard to determine whether the evidence shows it is **more likely than not** that the incident happened.

Administrative investigations result in one of three outcomes:

- **Substantiated:** there is evidence the incident happened
- **Unsubstantiated:** there is not enough evidence to make a final decision as to whether or not the incident happened
- **Unfounded:** there is evidence the incident did not happen

If your report is **substantiated**, there may be a criminal investigation.

- A criminal investigation is done by Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Intelligence and Investigative division.
- A criminal investigation may eventually lead to the person who harmed you being charged and convicted of a crime.
- Criminal investigations use **beyond a reasonable doubt**, which is a higher standard of evidence than the one used in administrative investigations.

Unless the complaint is unfounded, your facility will monitor your treatment for 90 days after you report sexual abuse. This is to protect you from further harm.