

## **Snake River Juvenile Detention Center PREA Report for 2025**

The Snake River Juvenile Detention Center places emphasis on the importance of training for all staff, including detention officers, medical and mental health staff, volunteers, contractors and youths in the area of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).

The Snake River Juvenile Detention Center has a “Zero-Tolerance” policy and approach in all aspects of daily functions. Any and all accusations are thoroughly investigated. The investigation agency continued to be the Twin Falls City Police Department for 2025. Management and staff will always cooperate with any investigation. Any accusation under PREA is taken seriously. The Snake River Juvenile Detention Center also has a zero-tolerance policy on retaliation against an accuser or the accused.

Information gathered during investigations is used to enhance the safety, security, policies, procedures and training within the facility. Youth residing at the Snake River Juvenile Detention Center have the right to be free from sexual harassment and sexual assault. They have the right to feel safe and secure while housed at our detention center. Our number one job is to provide youth with a safe environment free from violence, sexual harassment and sexual assault. Sexual harassment can trigger a trauma response in a person who may have a history of sexual abuse in their past. We strive to make sure all the youth in our facility feel safe and secure in our facility.

### **Definitions:**

- **Substantiated:** Sufficient to establish a thing as true, valid, or real.
- **Unfounded:** There is no credible evidence to verify the allegation.
- **Unsubstantiated:** There is credible evidence, but not enough evidence to verify the allegation.

The Snake River Juvenile Detention Center completed and passed its fourth on-site PREA Audit on September 23, 2025. The auditor was Robert Palmquist. Our fifth PREA Audit will occur in September 2028.

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### **2025 REPORTS**

#### **March & April 2025 - Substantiated**

The Snake River Juvenile Detention Center maintains a zero-tolerance policy on all sexualized talk, sexual harassment, and sexual abuse. All volunteers are required to attend annual PREA training. In March and April, several staff reported inappropriate sexualized conversations occurring between HOPE volunteers and in-custody youth. The HOPE program is a faith-based drug and alcohol recovery program. Individual volunteers who were in violation of the Snake River Juvenile Detention Center's zero-tolerance policy were dismissed and not allowed to return to the detention center after the conversations happened. The leader of the program was also talked to about appropriate conversations and asked to speak with the volunteers who came in with them. However, after the fourth volunteer violated our zero-tolerance policy, the decision was made to terminate the HOPE program. Sexualized talk, sexual harassment, and sexual abuse can traumatize and retraumatize youth. One of our primary roles is to protect the youth in our custody. Incidents were reported on 3/6/2025, 3/20/2025, 4/3/2025, and 4/10/2025. This incident was substantiated.

#### **June 2025 - Unfounded**

In June while a male youth was being transported by North Star officers, he reported that he had been sexually assaulted and beaten by staff at the Snake River Juvenile Detention Center. Upon his arrival to the detention center, PREA Coordinator Janaan Van Zante with Supervisor Sydney Cortes asked him about the accusation. Due to the severity of the accusation, Van Zante was only getting enough information to determine if law enforcement needed to be contacted to file criminal charges. The male youth denied making the accusation and acted like he did not know what Van Zante was talking about. Upon further investigation, no evidence was found that a sexual assault or beating occurred to the male youth or any other youth. This incident was unfounded.

#### **October 2025 - Unfounded**

In October a male youth reported that he felt that a male staff member was looking in his window for "too long". The youth gave recent dates and cameras were checked. The staff member was not found to be working outside of his regular duties. The male staff member was conducting well-being rounds and checking youth every 15-minutes or less per Snake River Juvenile Detention Center policy. He was never seen standing at any of the youth's windows longer than necessary to check on their welfare. The youth was informed of the well-being policy and it was explained to him that staff are required to check on youth to make sure they are doing okay. The youth responded that he understood and apologized for the confusion. This incident was unfounded.

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### **MORE INFORMATION**

For any of the other documents that must be published per PREA Compliance please refer to –  
<http://twinfallscounty.org/juvenile/detention/>.

For any questions you can contact Detention Manager Neil Nakamura or Training/PREA Coordinator  
Janaan Van Zante at (208)736-2588.

For additional information on the Prison Rape Elimination Act go to -  
<https://www.prearesourcecenter.org/about/prison-rape-elimination-act>