

Snake River Juvenile Detention Center PREA Report for 2022

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 2022. Management and staff will always cooperate with any investigation. Any accusation under PREA is taken seriously.

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.

In January 2022, we moved to a new detention center on the third floor of Twin Falls County West. During our first year at the new facility, we received 2 accusations of youth-on-youth sexual assault. However, both of these accusations were unfounded. The Snake River Juvenile Detention Center has over 60 cameras with the ability to record and save more than three months of data. Investigations into these accusations found that the reported incidents never occurred.

In July of 2022, a youth reported a sexual assault which allegedly occurred at another residential facility in another county. The report was passed on to law enforcement of that county and the youth was set up for a CARES (Children at Risk Evaluation Services) interview at St. Luke's Magic Valley. However, the youth refused to continue cooperating with the investigation and law enforcement could no longer investigate the allegations. This case is considered unsubstantiated due to the possibility that the incident did occur, but without cooperation from the reporting youth, nothing further could be done to substantiate the allegations.

In October 2022, PREA Coordinator Janaan Van Zante received multiple reports from Snake River Juvenile Detention staff about a youth sexually harassing other youth during school and other structured activities. Multiple youth reported feeling uncomfortable around the

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offending individual. The offending youth had received proper education in our facility's policies and procedures regarding our zero-tolerance policy. However, this did not deter the behavior. The youth was placed on a special management program that gave the offending youth one-on-one time with detention center staff and away from other youth until their release.

The Snake River Juvenile Detention Center completed and passed its third PREA Audit on September 23, 2022. The auditor was Aaron Keech. Our fourth PREA Audit will occur in September 2025.

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 Paul Shepherd 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>