



Sexual  
abuse and  
harassment  
is never  
okay.

**What can I  
do to help  
keep my  
family and  
friends  
safe while  
in Jail?**



## **The Grant County Sheriff has a zero-tolerance policy towards sexual abuse**

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The **Prison Rape Elimination Act** (PREA) of 2003 is a federal law that seeks to eliminate sexual abuse and harassment. This law applies to all federal and state prisons, jails, police lock-ups, private facilities, juvenile facilities, and community correctional settings.

GCSO rules prohibit any form of sexual activity, including sexual harassment. Forced or coerced sexual behavior is a criminal offense and the department will take every action possible to hold perpetrators accountable.

Often, victims of sexual abuse are reluctant to go to an authority figure to report these incidents. However, it is very important that all incidents are reported so the victim can receive the help they need and so the department can stop the chain of abuse.

## **How are my family and friends protected when an incident is reported?**

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All allegations of sexual abuse or harassment will be investigated. All information is handled in a sensitive manner and is limited to “need to know” personnel. If there is an immediate concern, GCSO will separate the victim from the suspected abuser. If the incident occurred recently, the victim will receive treatment for his/her injuries. He/she will receive appropriate follow up care and counseling as needed. GCSO will monitor and protect the victim from any retaliation for reporting.

## **What can cause my family and friends to be victimized?**

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When selecting a victim, perpetrators will typically seek out individuals who appear physically or emotionally weaker than the perpetrator. All inmates are screened at intake for possible vulnerabilities and receive information on what to do if they believe they are at risk.

## **How can you help?**

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If you are aware of someone who has experienced or is currently experiencing sexual abuse or harassment while incarcerated, you can report it on his or her behalf. You can also choose to remain anonymous.

## **How to report information**

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To report information regarding sexual abuse, harassment, staff or inmate misconduct, waste, fraud, abuse or any other serious issue pertaining to the department, please call either number below:

**Sheriff's Office**  
(541) 575-1131

**Heart of Grant County**  
(541) 620-1342

Please include as many details as possible to assist with the investigation and include your contact information if you would like follow up communication.

Inmates may also report abuse by calling the Heart of Grant County on the inmate phone, It's a free call (541) 620-1342