

# **Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction**

## **Female Inmate on Inmate Sexual Assault Orientation**

### Facts Related to Sexual Assault:

1. Anyone, male or female can be sexually assaulted.
2. Rapist can be male or female
3. Age is not a factor concerning sexual assault.
4. Physical attractiveness is not a factor.
5. Sexual orientation is not a factor concerning sexual assault. A rapist may be either heterosexual or homosexual. The victims may be either heterosexual or homosexual.
6. Nobody “asks to be raped”. The victim of an assault is not at fault. Sexual assault is a crime of violence and has nothing to do with lust or passion.

### Statistics

1. In 2002 there were 247,730 victims of rape, attempted rape or sexual assault (this does not include victims 12 or younger).
2. Seven out of every eight rape victims was female.
3. One out of every six American women have been the victims of an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime.
4. About 44% of rape victims are under age 18. Three out of every twenty victims are under age 12.
5. In 2001 only 39% of rapes and sexual assaults were reported to law enforcement officials-about one in three

### Definition of Sexual Assault

DRC Policy 79-ISA-01 defines sexual assault as “Any contact between the sex organ of one person and the sex organ, mouth, or anus of another person, or any intrusion of any part of the body of one person, or of any object into the sex organ, mouth or anus of another person, by the use of force or threat of force.” Sexual assault, per this definition, includes intercourse, anal and oral sex.

### Sexual Assault Awareness

Most research regarding inmate on inmate sexual assault has focused on male inmates at risk from other male inmates. However, staff and female inmates do report that female inmates can and do sexually assault one another. It is reported that physical force may be used but more often the assaulter will use intimidation and emotional abuse to coerce another inmate into a sexual relationship. As with men in male prisons, it is reported the stronger women will seek out female inmates that appear weaker-physically and/or emotionally. Violence among women in prisons is frequently similar to domestic violence situations.

## Sexual Assault Avoidance

1. Avoid isolated areas when possible
2. When possible stay within eyesight of correctional staff
3. Be aware of your body language. Do not walk with your head down and eyes lowered
4. Do not accept food, cigarettes, clothing or other items from inmates. Do not go into debt in any manner. You may be expected to “repay” these debts with sex.
5. Beware of inmates that say they will protect you. Protection frequently has a cost also.
6. Do not give out information about your family, friends or financial support
7. Do not purchase large amounts of commissary or otherwise give the impression of having money available to you.
8. Avoid talking about sex and avoid unnecessary and or casual nudity.

## Reporting Sexual Assault

1. If you are being intimidated or are in fear of a sexual assault from another inmate immediately report this to a staff member or more than one staff member if necessary. You may also kite the inspector directly or any other staff member you feel comfortable reporting this to. You may also utilize the inmate grievance procedure.
2. If you are sexually assaulted, immediately report it to a prison staff member. Do not clean yourself, brush your teeth, wash your clothes or do anything else that could destroy evidence of the assault. The sooner you report the assault the better the chances evidence can be obtained that will help prove the assault.
3. When a sexual assault is reported you will be medically checked. If the assault has occurred recently you will be transported to a hospital. At the hospital you will be examined for injuries and evidence collected. Evidence may include hair, saliva, or clothing fibers.

## Aftermath

1. Once back at the institution you will be referred to mental health services for assessment. Treatment will be provided as necessary.
2. Victims of sexual assault may experience feelings of self-loathing, anger, rage, humiliation, nightmares, depression, isolation, and depression, among other things. Physical symptoms may include headaches, stomachaches, sleep disturbances and loss of appetite. Report any concerns to medical or mental health services.
3. All reported sexual assaults will be reported to the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Each case will also be administratively investigated. Cooperate with the investigators. The testimony and information you provide will help the department and outside authorities assure that this person is punished for the

crime against you, and that this person is not given the opportunity to sexually assault another person.

**IF YOU ARE THE INMATE THAT SEXUALLY ASSAULTS OTHER INMATES**

1. As already noted, all reports of sexual assault are reported to the Ohio State Highway Patrol. They will conduct a criminal investigation. If you are convicted of a new felony offense that occurred while in prison, your new sentence will be added to your current sentence, increasing the amount of time you have to serve.
2. In addition to any criminal investigation, there will also be an administrative investigation. You will likely receive a conduct report. If found guilty by the Rules Infraction Board, you will be subject to harsh sanctions. It is also very likely your supervision level will increase, which may cause you to be transferred to a higher security prison or unit with less freedom of movement and less privileges.
3. Consider the effect this would have on you, your living conditions, and your chances for release. If you have family-parents, husband, children, or other close friends and family, consider how this will affect them personally and/or how it will affect their ability to visit you.
4. Any sexual contact significantly increases your risk of contracting a sexually transmitted disease, ranging from genital herpes to HIV and AIDS.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONSULT DRC POLICY 79-ISA-01, AVAILABLE IN THE INMATE LAW LIBRARY**