

Annual PREA Review for Corrective Action pursuant to PREA Standard 115.288
January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021

The Hidalgo County SATF, pursuant to The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards § 115.287, § 115.288, and § 115.289, provides a copy of their annual review of all related PREA investigations inclusive of any potential problem areas and any and all corrective actions taken by the facility. The annual review considers the investigative reports, review team assessments and any other related information.

The Hidalgo County SATF continues to provide a safe and secure environment for the residents by updating our policies and procedures to prohibit and prevent sexual abuse and harassment. We investigate and address any allegation of abuse or harassment involving any resident in the custody of our agency according to our policies. Any reports by residents, third parties, or anonymous are looked into and investigated thoroughly. Appropriate steps are taken immediately to prevent any further issues. Resident have available medical and victim advocate services, if needed, at any point while at the facility. Residents are screened immediately after they come in to determine proper and safe placement in our facility.

The PREA Review Team conducts thirty (30) day reviews of all substantiated and unsubstantiated claims. Reviews include examining factors that motivated these incidences including age, issues of power and control, sexual identity, or perceived sexual identity, youthful appearance, atmosphere of the unit, conflicting personalities, and the desire to influence housing. In each case, risk assessments of the residents are conducted as well as mental health referrals when appropriate. Residents are to be re-classified, if necessary, to ensure their safety in the facility. None of the victims are deprived of any rights or privileges as a result of reporting incidents of sexual harassment or sexual abuse.

In 2021 there were a total of zero allegation of resident on resident, resident on staff, or staff on resident for sexual abuse or sexual harassment. This was also the case is 2020, 2019, and 2018.

In the event of any allegations in the future, staff has been trained on first responder duties and responsibilities in accordance to PREA standards. The Hidalgo County SATF has a Coordinated Response Plan in place to deal with such instances, including medical, mental health, and law enforcement professionals. Our local Woman Together rape crisis center is out designed advocate in the event of an incident.

For 2021, the PREA review team considered whether any changes to staffing levels or video monitoring were necessary to avoid inappropriate conduct. There were no findings of any corrective actions needed at this time.

Faustino Lopez III, Director

Hidalgo County Community Supervision and Corrections Department