

**Hernando County Sheriff's Office**  
**Detention Center**  
**2022**

**Prison Rape Elimination Act**  
**Annual Report**

## **2022 Annual Report**

### **What is PREA?**

**The federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was signed into law September 2003 by President George W. Bush. Its main purpose is to protect the Eight Amendment rights of federal, state, and local prisoners and inmates. PREA makes the prevention of sexual abuse and sexual harassment of incarcerated persons a top priority with national standards for the detection, prevention, reduction, and punishment of sexual misconduct and abuse in prisons and jails. It also increases accountability for administrators who fail to prevent, reduce, and punish such misconduct.**

### **What is a violation of PREA and how will the Sheriff's Office respond?**

**Sexual contact in any form between staff (contractors, volunteers, and vendors) and inmates is a violation of PREA. This not only applies to inmates in custody, but also to those who may be in transition between custody levels, such as in drug court, under treatment, in transition housing and/or Probation, Parole and Post-Prison Supervision. It also applies to same sex, as well as opposite sex encounters. There is no such thing as consensual sex between staff and inmates. Sexual abuse and sexual harassment between inmates is also a PREA violation.**

**The Hernando County Sheriff's Office is committed to a ZERO TOLERANCE for sexual abuse or sexual harassment of inmates under its authority. The Hernando County Sheriff's Office will aggressively respond, investigate, and support prosecution of such misconduct.**

**Definitions of Terms**

**Unfounded Allegation** – An allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

**Unsubstantiated Allegation** – An allegation that was investigated and the investigation produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether or not the event occurred.

**Substantiated Allegation** – An allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.

**Between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022, how many acts of inmates on inmate sexual abuse or harassment were reported?**

Number reported.....	0
Number Substantiated.....	0
Number Unsubstantiated.....	0
Number Unfounded.....	0
Investigation Ongoing.....	0

**How many allegation of staff on inmate sexual abuse or sexual harassment were reported?**

Number reported.....	0
Number Substantiated.....	0
Number Unsubstantiated.....	0
Number Unfounded.....	0
Investigation Ongoing.....	0