

**MN Department of Corrections
Red Wing**

**Checking in for
Your Safety**



The Basics

While you are at MCF-Red Wing, it is important to us that you remain safe and free from sexual abuse and sexual harassment. We want to help all youth become successful in an environment that is safe.

What's Inside:

Information to learn on how to stay safe at MCF-Red Wing:

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HOW THIS BOOKLET HELPS KEEP ME SAFE??

This booklet gives you important information about your safety at MCF-Red Wing. Youth and staff safety is one of the most important values of MCF-Red Wing.

It also tells you how to:

- √ **Be safe**
- √ **Get help if you are sexually abused or sexually harassed.**
- √ **Take the right steps to report if you are sexually abused or sexually harassed.**

The MN Department of Corrections Has Zero Tolerance for Sexually Abusive and Sexually Harassing Behaviors

This means if any youth or staff is sexually abusive or sexually harassing, the Department will investigate the report. The investigation will follow laws and rules that hold the person accountable.



Definitions

Sexual abuse of a youth or resident by another youth or resident - includes any of the following acts:

- (1) Contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, including penetration, however slight;
- (2) Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva or anus;
- (3) Penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person, however slight, by a hand, finger, object or other instrument;
- (4) Any other intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh or the buttocks of another person, excluding contact incidental to a physical altercation.

Sexual abuse of a youth or resident by a staff, vendor, or volunteer - includes any of the following acts:

- (1) Contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, including penetration, however slight;
- (2) Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva or anus;
- (3) Contact between the mouth and any body part where the staff, vendor, or volunteer has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire;
- (4) Penetration of the anal or genital opening, however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or other instrument that is unrelated to official duties or where the staff, vendor, or volunteer has the intent to abuse, arouse or gratify sexual desire;

Definitions

- 5) Any other intentional contact, either directly or through the clothing, of or with the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh or the buttocks that is unrelated to official duties or where the staff, vendor or volunteer has the intent to abuse, arouse or gratify sexual desire;
- (6) Any attempt, threat, or request by a staff, vendor, or volunteer to engage in the activities described in paragraphs (1)-(5).
- (7) Any display by a staff, vendor, or volunteer of his or her uncovered genitalia, buttocks, or breast in the presence of a youth or resident, and
- (8) Voyeurism by a staff, vendor, or volunteer.

Voyeurism by a staff, vendor or volunteer means an invasion of privacy of a youth or resident by staff for reasons unrelated to official duties, such as peering at a youth who is using a toilet in his or her room to perform bodily functions; requiring a youth to expose his or her buttocks, genitals or breasts; or taking images of all or part of a youth's naked body or of a youth performing bodily functions.

Sexual harassment includes:

- (1) Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by one youth or resident directed toward another; and
- (2) Repeated verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to a youth or resident by a staff, vendor, or volunteer, including demeaning references to gender, sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing, or obscene language or gestures.

The Problem of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment

Whether you are living in a juvenile correctional facility or the community, the possibility always exists that another person may sexually abuse or sexually harass you. It is wrong for anyone to threaten or hurt another person. Everyone deserves to be safe.

Sexually abusive behaviors are criminal acts and will be investigated and prosecuted when possible.

Sexual and Romantic Activity

All sexual or romantic activity between staff, volunteers, vendors and youth is prohibited and is against the law. Also, sexual activity between youth and other youth in juvenile correctional facilities is prohibited and in some cases is against the law.



WHO DO WE CONSIDER STAFF?

When we talk about staff in this booklet, we are talking about any adults who are assigned by Red Wing to work with or help MCF-Red Wing youth.



The Department Works Hard to Keep You SAFE

Staff will do everything they can to prevent sexual abuse and sexual harassment. The actions they will take include:

- ✓ **Supervising youth closely.**
- ✓ **Creating and enforcing rules to keep staff members and youth safe.**
- ✓ **Holding a person accountable (no matter who they are) if they sexually abuse or sexually harass someone else. This means staff members will report the sexual abuse or sexual harassment so it can be investigated.**

Staying Safe

Promoting safety is not only what staff members do, but what you, as a youth must do. Here are some things you can do to remain safe.

Pay attention to:

- √ **Where you are.**
Avoid being isolated away from the main group where staff can't see you. Sexual abuse and sexual harassment happen more often when a youth is isolated and alone with another person than when the youth is part of a group.
- √ **Situations that make you feel uncomfortable.**
Trust your gut feeling. If a situation feels wrong, it most likely is. Work to get yourself out of the situation and then report the situation to staff.
- √ **Special attention someone may be giving just to you.**
This may be favors, romantic or sexual advances, gestures or talk. This includes sharing secrets. You need to report this to staff.
- √ **Who you tell private information to.**
Youth have been known to use this information to get another youth to do something they don't want to.



Do not:

- ✓ **Accept any offer of protection.**
Someone offering to protect you from consequences or harm from anyone else they will want something in return.
- ✓ **Accept a loan or gift.**
Do not borrow, gamble or trade anything.
Avoid owing anything to anyone.
- ✓ **Let manners get in the way of keeping yourself safe.**
Do not be afraid to shout **"NO"** or **"STOP IT NOW."**

TAKE ACTION!!!

 Tell a staff immediately if someone tries to isolate you, singles you out, gives you anything special, wants to trade or loan an item or offers you protection.

 It is very important that you report these things to staff.

 If the staff doesn't take you seriously or does not believe you, tell another staff about it.

Your Rights

You have the right to be free from sexual abuse and sexual harassment. You also have the right to be free from retaliation for reporting incidents of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. If you are sexually abused or sexually harassed or know of someone that has been sexually abused or sexually harassed at your facility, you need to report it to a staff member immediately.

Reporting can be hard to do, but it will make sure that you and others are safe from harm. It also means that the person who caused the harm may not harm you or others any more. This is a very important way to make sure where you live is safe.

How to Report Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment

Talk to or send a note to any of the following:

- ✓ Juvenile Corrections Officer
- ✓ Supervisor
- ✓ Case Manager
- ✓ Volunteer
- ✓ Teacher
- ✓ Nurse
- ✓ Other staff members at your facility



Or, you can make a report by:

- ✓ Filing a kite or grievance, putting it in a sealed envelope, and placing it in the locked medical box in your unit.
- ✓ Calling the PREA Hotline displayed in your unit.

All facility staff know what to do if you have been harmed and how to help you become safe.

If Sexual Abuse or Sexual Harassment Happens...

What are the steps I should take if I'm sexually abused?

If you have been sexually abused at MCF-Red Wing, it is important that you do the following:

- √ Report the sexual abuse to staff.
- √ Staff will ensure that you get medical attention immediately. You will also receive the health services you need.

The following steps help preserve evidence so the facility can take action against the person who is alleged to have abused you. It is important that you avoid the following until you get medical attention:

DO NOT:

- Shower or wash
- Eat or drink
- Use the restroom
- Brush your teeth
- Change your clothes

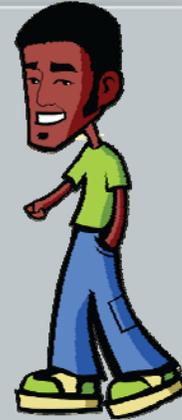


What are the steps I should take if I'm sexually harassed?

If you have been sexually harassed at MCF-Red Wing, it is important that you do the following:

- √ Report the sexual harassment to staff.

IF YOU ARE ABUSED OR HARASSED IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT!



What will happen if I sexually abuse or sexually harass someone?

We will investigate the sexual abuse or sexual harassment and will seek criminal charges. If you are found guilty, you could face consequences. If you have trouble controlling your actions, seek help so that you don't harm anyone.

What should I do if I witness sexual abuse or sexual harassment or even just suspect I witnessed sexual abuse or sexual harassment?

You need to report any sexual abuse or sexual harassment or suspected sexual abuse or sexual harassment you witness. An investigation will take place to find the truth. You won't get in trouble if you make an honest report.

What will happen if I make a false report?

Staff take reports of sexual abuse and sexual harassment very seriously. If you choose to make a false report of sexual abuse or sexual harassment against anyone, it will be discovered. Anyone making a false report will be held accountable. This includes loss of incentives/privileges and possible new criminal charges. Our goal is to provide the safest facility possible. Being honest in what you say and do is a big part of staying safe.

Victim Advocacy Organizations

Important Notes



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