



**Cook County
Juvenile Temporary
Detention Center**

Policy # V5C14P06

Total Pages: 4

Volume: 5 Office of Professional Responsibility

Chapter: 1 Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA)

Subject: PREA- Investigations

ACA Standard:

AOIC: 9.3c, 9.4a4

**NCCHC Standard:
Y-B-05, Y-B-06**

IDJJ Standard:

JDAI Standard:

**PREA Standard:
115.371, 115.372, 115.373**

Related JTDC Policies:

[1.01.02 Quality Assurance and Improvement Program](#)

[1.01.06 Investigations](#)

[3.09.18 - Preservation of Evidence](#)

[5.14.05 PREA- Official Response Following a Resident Report](#)

Other Related Standard:

JTDC Training Component:

- Pre-service Training
- Annual In-service Training

Monitoring and Evaluation: Yes/No: Yes

**Performance Indicators and Outcome Measures:
Yes/No: Yes**

Evaluation by:

- Superintendent
- Deputy Superintendent
- Chief of Staff
- Deputy Executive Directors
- PREA Manager

Associated Forms: Yes/No: Yes
[PREA Notification Form](#)

Directive and Post Order Addendums:

Effective Date: 3/13/2026

Distribution: PolicyTech

Revision Dates: 2/25/2018, 2/21/2025

Annual Review Date: 02/28/2027

Dr. William Steward, Acting Superintendent

02/28/2026

Date	Subject	Policy #	Page #
3/13/2026	PREA - Investigations	V5C14P06	2 of 4

I. POLICY:

It is the policy of the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center (JTDC) to investigate all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment of JTDC residents.

II. RATIONALE AND PURPOSE:

To protect residents from physical and emotional harm, provide a safe, secure, and trauma informed environment and comply with the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003. JTDC is committed to zero tolerance of resident sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

III. SCOPE:

This policy applies to all JTDC residents, staff, contractors, volunteers, interns and visitors.

IV. DEFINITIONS: ([PREA Definitions](#))

V. PROCEDURES:

A. Criminal and Administrative Investigations [115.371]

1. An administrative and/or criminal investigation shall be completed for all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment in accordance with JTDC Policy [1.01.06 Investigations](#).
 - a. The initial assessment shall be conducted by Management Staff on Duty and that Supervisor in Charge (SIC), to ensure the safety of the alleged victim, thoroughly and objectively upon notification of all allegations, including third-party and anonymous reports.
 - b. The SIC shall refer the allegation to OPR and notify the Administrator on Duty (AOD).
 - c. The Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) shall inform the PREA Manager, when an investigator has been assigned and shall provide an initial update within 48 hours and periodic updates to the PREA Manager.
[115.371(a)]
 - d. The JTDC shall utilize investigators who have received specialized training in sexual abuse investigations in the confinement setting pursuant to PREA standard 115.334 [115.371(b)].
 - e. Direct and circumstantial evidence (including any available physical and DNA evidence) and any available video evidence shall be gathered by the SIC and preserved in accordance with JTDC Policy [3.09.18 - Preservation of Evidence](#).

Date	Subject	Policy #	Page #
3/13/2026	PREA - Investigations	V5C14P06	3 of 4

- f. JTDC investigators shall interview alleged victims, suspected aggressors, and witnesses [115.371(c)]. In determining Investigative Findings OPR can consider prior allegations in concluding the veracity of an allegation.
- g. JTDC will not terminate an investigation solely because the allegation source recants the allegation. [115.371(d)]
- h. If during the OPR investigation it is determined that the nature of the allegation may involve criminal activity, OPR shall contact the appropriate law enforcement agency. [115.371 (e)] [115.371(i)]
 - 1) The OPR Division shall cooperate with local law enforcement and shall endeavor to remain informed about the progress of the investigation. [115.371(m)]
- i. The credibility of an alleged victim, suspect or witness shall be assessed on an individual basis and shall not be determined by the person's status in the JTDC. JTDC shall not require a resident who alleges sexual abuse to submit to a polygraph examination or other truth-telling device as a condition for proceeding with the investigation of such an allegation. [115.371(f)]
- j. The investigation by OPR shall include an effort to determine whether staff actions or failures to act contributed to the abuse. [115.371(g) (1)]
- k. The investigation by OPR shall be documented in written reports in the Resident Management Information System (RMIS) including a description of the physical and testimonial evidence, reasoning behind credibility assessments, investigative facts and findings. [115.371(g) (2)]
- l. The Finding of the investigation shall be provided to the PREA Manager, Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent, as soon as practicable. Any further dissemination of the Final OPR Investigative Report beyond the PREA Manager, Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent shall be determined at the sole discretion of the Superintendent and/or Deputy Superintendent.
- m. JTDC shall retain all investigative reports for as long as the alleged aggressor is detained or employed by the agency, plus five (5) years unless applicable laws require a different retention period. [115.371(j)]
- n. The release of the alleged aggressor or victim from the employment or custody of the JTDC shall not provide a basis for terminating an investigation. [115.371(k)]
- o. Evidentiary standard for administrative investigations [115.372]
 - 1) The JTDC imposes a preponderance of evidence, as the standard required for substantiating an allegation of sexual abuse or sexual harassment. [115.372]

Date	Subject	Policy #	Page #
3/13/2026	PREA - Investigations	V5C14P06	4 of 4

- p. When the quality of evidence appears to support criminal prosecution, the OPR Director will consult with staff Legal Counsel and shall await local law enforcement to conduct compelled interviews. Compelled interviews shall be conducted only after consulting with prosecutors as to whether compelled interviews may be an obstacle for subsequent criminal prosecution.
[115.371 (e)]

B. Reporting of Investigations to Residents [115.373]

1. Following an investigation into a resident's allegation of sexual abuse, the PREA Manager shall document ([PREA Notification Form](#)) and communicate the result of the investigation to the resident, (see JTDC Policy [5.14.05 PREA- Official Response Following a Resident Report](#)). [115.373(a)]

VI. Quality Assurance

- A. The Project Directors shall assist the DEDs in ensuring policy and procedure is consistently implemented and monitored for procedural compliance in accordance with JTDC Policy [1.01.02 Quality Assurance and Improvement Program](#).

VII. Evaluation and Monitoring Mechanism

- A. These policies and procedures relating to PREA – investigations are reviewed annually and revised as necessary.

This policy replaces all previous bulletins, policies, directives, and memos related to this policy.

These policies and procedures were reviewed, approved and signed by:

Dr. William Steward, Acting Superintendent

02/28/2026