

The Villages, Inc.

conserving youth preserving nature

To parents/guardians of youth placed at The Villages, Inc.:

"The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) is a federal law that supports the elimination, reduction, and prevention of sexual abuse in adult and juvenile facilities as well as community correction programs."

Pursuant to PREA, the National Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Prison Rape: Interim Final Rule was posted to the Federal Register on June 20, 2012 and became law on August 20, 2012.

The standards apply to all facilities operated by The Village Inc.

Zero Tolerance:

The Village Inc. mandates zero tolerance towards any form of conduct that meets the definition of sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and sexually inappropriate behavior. The safety and well-being of all referred youth is paramount, and the agency will extend all efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to such conduct.

Further, The Village Inc. and its operated facilities must comply with all applicable PREA standards adopted by the United States Department of Justice. Any other facility that contracts with The Village Inc. is required to adopt and comply with the PREA standards.

All residents of The Village Inc. operated facilities have the right to be free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. This includes not being subjected to sexually abusive and/or harassing behavior from staff, contractors, volunteers, and other residents.

If a resident is sexually abused or sexually harassed by any staff, contractors, volunteers, or resident(s), the resident is encouraged to immediately report the incident so that the agency can ensure the resident's safety and the safety of other residents.

Residents have the right to confidentially report sexual abuse or sexual harassment to any Villages' staff member, custodial case manager, a counselor, a volunteer, an intern, a supervisor, a manager, a mental health professional, and The Villages' Executive Director, or the resident may use the grievance process.

A resident, family member, or a member of the public (third party) may anonymously report a resident's sexual abuse, sexual harassment, or inappropriate sexual behavior directly to the KS Protection Report Center at 1- 800-922-5330 or to the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE. Any report of sexual abuse, sexual harassment, or inappropriate sexual behavior alleged to have occurred within a facility operated by The Villages will be referred

for investigation to the fullest extent by DCF and may be reported to the Shawnee County Sheriff's Department for possible criminal investigation and prosecution.

If a resident is sexually abused, he/she will also be provided access to outside victim advocates for emotional support services related to the sexual abuse. The Center for Safety and Empowerment is the designated outside victim advocate for The Village Inc.'s operated facilities.

The resident will be provided any emergency or on-going medical treatment needed as result of being the victim of sexual abuse that occurs in the facility. The resident will also be provided a mental health assessment by one of the department's mental health professionals and provided any needed mental health services as a result of being the victim of sexual abuse that occurs in the facility. These medical and mental health services will be provided at no cost to the resident or his/her family.

The Village Inc. **strictly prohibits any form of retaliation** directed toward the victim, other residents, or staff who have reported sexual abuse or sexual harassment or who have cooperated with a sexual abuse or sexual harassment investigation. Residents will be protected and their well-being monitored for any possible signs of retaliation against them for making a report or cooperating in an investigation.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the information in this letter, please contact our office at 785-267-5900.

The Villages, Inc.
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785-267-5900