

This Agency has zero tolerance with regard to sexual abuse and sexual harassment in this facility and will take appropriate affirmative measures to protect all inmates from sexual abuse and harassment and to promptly and thoroughly investigate all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

What is SEXUAL ASSAULT?

Sexual assault/rape includes any kind of the following: Intimate knowledge, oral sodomy, sexual assault with an object, or sexual fondling of a person forcibly or against that person's will.

A sexual assault includes incidents where a person is unable to give consent because of his or her youth, temporary or permanent mental or physical capacity.

Additionally, when a sexual assault is threatened or accomplished through fear or threat of bodily harm, that is considered a sexual assault or rape.

It is a crime to engage in any sex act with any person employed by the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office.

Sexual assault affects every one, either directly or through the experiences of those we care about.

It is not only a women's issue as it can affect persons of any gender, age, race, ethnic group, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, or disability.

WHAT CAN I DO TO AVOID A SEXUAL ASSAULT?

The only way sexual assaults can be prevented is when a potential rapist chooses NOT to rape. However, you may avoid an attack by keeping the following guidelines in mind.

- Be aware of situations that make you uncomfortable. Trust your instincts. If it feels wrong LEAVE.
- Don't let your manners get in the way of keeping yourself safe. Don't be afraid to say "NO" or "STOP IT NOW".
- Walk and stand with confidence. Many rapists choose victims who look like they won't fight back or who appear emotionally weak.

Avoid casual nudity and talking about sex. These things may be considered an invitation, a come on, or otherwise convince another inmate that you have an interest in a sexual relationship.

- Do not accept commissary or gifts from other inmates. Placing yourself in debt to another inmate can lead to the expectation of repaying the debt with sexual favors.
- Avoid secluded areas. Position yourself in plain view of staff members.
- If you are being pressured for sex report it immediately.

What do I do if am Sexually Assaulted?

If the attack has just happened.....

Get to a safe place.

Report the attack to a staff member immediately. If you do not feel comfortable reporting verbally to staff you may file a report using an inmate request form or through a friend/family member.

The longer you wait to report a sexual assault the more difficult it is for the criminal and/or administrative investigation to obtain the necessary evidence.

Request immediate medical attention you may have serious injuries that your are not aware of and any sexual contact can expose you to sexually transmitted diseases.

Do not shower, brush your teeth, use the rest room, or change your clothes. You may destroy important evidence.

If you have been sexually assaulted or witness a sexual assault, but you are unwilling to report it to a staff member, then you may report this by submitting an Inmate Request Form or have a family or friend contact the facility supervisor.

Reporting a sexual assault is a serious allegation and will be treated as such. False reporting will carry serious consequences.

What happens after I report a Sexual Assault?

You will immediately be separated from any alleged attackers, pending investigation.

Health services will be notified and you will receive a physical examination. The purpose of this will be to assess you for any injuries or exposures to sexually transmitted diseases (STD). Additionally the investigating officer will take control of any evidence obtained from this.

Once the examination is complete, you may be referred to Mental Health services for an assessment. Treatment will be provided as necessary

Remember that sexual assault is a crime of violence and has nothing to do with lust or passion. The victim of an assault is a "Victim" and is not at fault.

Winnebago County Sheriff's Office

**Sheriff
John Matz**



Inmate Sexual Assault Awareness