

**JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER
16TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COURT SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT/PREA COORDINATOR**



**PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT (PREA)
ANNUAL REPORT 2025**

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Facility Introduction

The Kane County Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) is a detention facility for juveniles between the ages of 10 through 20. The facility was opened in 1997 and has a rated capacity of 80 beds. The facility was constructed to allow for a future expansion of 80 additional beds. The Kane County JJC is a regional detention facility and currently has intergovernmental agreements with the thirteen (13) counties of DuPage, Kendall, McHenry, Ogle, Lee, Whiteside, Stephenson, Carroll, Mason, Montgomery, Shelby, Rock Island and Jefferson. The facility is composed of four living units, educational classrooms, a medical unit, a special observation unit, indoor and outdoor physical recreation, intake and administration areas. The facility provides secure detention services for both male and female juveniles who have been accused of serious crimes or who have been sentenced to the facility for a period of time in accordance with the Juvenile Court Act.

The function of the JJC is to provide safe, humane and secure temporary custody for juveniles pending court proceedings or those who have been adjudicated on delinquent charges. Juveniles are detained through court orders, warrants and at the request of local police departments if deemed appropriate via the Illinois Statewide screening tool.

JJC Youth Counselors are court-appointed officers with a minimum education of a bachelor's degree. They are responsible for maintaining the security of the facility and ensuring the safe and secure custody of each resident. Youth Counselors also monitor the behavior of residents and provide for their physical and emotional well-being.

The JJC uses a Cognitive Behavioral Training (CBT) program which is an evidence-based model for describing, understanding and changing thinking and behavior. It operates on the fundamental assumption that thinking and attitudes influence our behavior and therefore, we can change behavior by changing thought patterns and attitudes.

Facility Mission

The mission of the Kane County JJC is to provide an educationally conducive environment, which is secure, based on legal standards and community values.

Facility PREA Mission

The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 requires all confinement institutions to create safer environments for all persons in confinement. The final National Standards to prevent, detect, and respond to prison rape were released by the United States Department of Justice on May 17, 2012.

The Kane County JJC has a zero-tolerance policy for sexual misconduct involving residents and seeks to provide a safe, humane, secure environment, free from sexual violence, misconduct, harassment or retaliation. The JJC is committed to responding to all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Newly-admitted residents are provided with information about PREA, including several different ways to report abuse and harassment. Sexual misconduct is prohibited and subject to administrative discipline and/or criminal sanctions. The JJC's policy is intended to prevent, detect and respond to allegations in a thorough and timely manner. The JJC will protect all residents, employees, contractors and third parties who report sexual abuse or harassment from retaliation by other residents or employees.

Purpose

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) is a federal law that prohibits sexual abuse and sexual harassment within correctional settings, including juvenile detention centers. PREA promotes best practices for prevention, detection and response to sexual misconduct within the facility. The PREA Act requires that our facility collect and analyzes data in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse and harassment prevention, detection and response policies, practices and training. (Standard 115.388)

This report is completed in order to identify problem areas in order to take corrective action, compare data with preceding years and to assess our facility's progress in addressing sexual misconduct. (Standard 115.388)

Resident Reporting

Residents may report sexual abuse or sexual harassment in several ways while in the JJC's custody:

1. Tell any staff member, contractor or volunteer
2. Submit a grievance or emergency grievance to management
3. Report directly to the PREA Coordinator or PREA Compliance Supervisor
4. Use an Ameelio tablet to contact Family Service Association (FSA)
5. Tell a parent, guardian, attorney, caseworker or probation officer for third-party reporting

Third-Party Reporting (note: All contact numbers are posted in all housing units and on the JJC's website)

1. Report directly to the JJC PREA Coordinator (phone or email)
2. Call Family Service Association (FSA) at 847-695-3680

3. Submit a Third-Party Grievance Reporting Form (English and Spanish versions available) through the link on the JJC's website at:
<http://courtservices.countyofkane.org/Pages/JJC/PREA-Compliance.aspx>
4. Complete a grievance form available in the JJC's lobby and place it in the secure "Comments" lockbox

The Kane County Sheriff's Office investigates all allegations of sexual abuse that rise to the level of criminal behavior.

Victim Services

Any resident who has been a victim of sexual abuse or sexual harassment may use an Amealio tablet to report sexual misconduct perpetrated against them or any other resident of the JJC, or they may notify any staff member to receive sexual abuse crisis counseling services from a therapist at the Community Crisis Center. In addition, there is a full-time Mental Health Coordinator and two full-time mental health clinicians at the JJC.

This report is intended to provide information for calendar year 2025.

Facility Achievements in 2023

- Kane County JJC successfully completed its third PREA audit in February 2023. Audit services were provided by a DOJ-certified auditor from the John Howard Association. The JJC continues to enjoy its PREA-compliant certification and is currently one of only 3 PREA-certified county-operated juvenile detention facilities in Illinois.
- The JJC continues to use the Relias online training platform that contains numerous training opportunities, including PREA training. We also continue to conduct new staff PREA training and annual in-house training for all staff members, including volunteers and contractors.
- With the approval of Court Services Executive Director Lisa Aust and Superintendent Mike Davis, PREA Coordinator Amy Sierra reorganized the PREA team at the JJC by designating Crystal Zynda as the JJC PREA Compliance Supervisor, who assists the PREA Coordinator with monthly/annual PREA duties, investigations and assumes PREA responsibilities when the PREA Coordinator is not available. Mental Health Coordinator Pamela Ely was designated as the Back-Up PREA Investigator and assists when Ms. Sierra or Ms. Zynda are unavailable.
- Ms. Sierra and Ms. Zynda joined the National PREA Coordinators Working Group and attended the National PREA Coordinators Conference in Washington D.C. in July of 2023.

- The JJC continues to contract with the Community Crisis Center (CCC) to provide residents with access to outside victim advocates to make third-party reports and/or receive emotional support services.
- The JJC continues to contract with the Kane County Sheriff's Office to conduct criminal investigations if an allegation of sexual abuse or sexual assault is made. The JJC PREA team established PREA investigation protocols with the Special Victims Unit to ensure that all investigations are processed by the same group of officers who are trained on the JJC's protocols.
- The JJC continues to contract with Northwestern Delnor Hospital to provide SANE exams as needed.
- The JJC entered into a contract with Ameelio Connect to create a web-based format for residents to place anonymous, untracked and unmonitored PREA reports to our external reporting agency.
- The JJC entered into a contract with Family Service Association to serve as our external reporting agency and established protocols to ensure that the JJC is immediately notified when reports of sexual abuse or harassment are received.
- The JJC enrolled Ms. Zynda and three (3) senior youth counselors in a Sexual Assault Advocate Training program through CCC so they may serve as sexual assault victim advocates.

Facility Achievements in 2024

- The JJC continues to use the Relias online training platform that contains PREA training. We also continue to conduct new-staff PREA training and annual in-house training for all JJC staff members, including volunteers and contractors.
- Ms. Sierra and Ms. Zynda continue to be members in good standing the National PREA Coordinators Working Group and attended the National PREA Coordinators Conference in Buffalo, NY in July of 2024.
- Ms. Sierra and Ms. Zynda continue to be members of the Illinois Statewide PREA Coordinators Group. PREA Coordinators from the participating county-operated juvenile detention facilities in Illinois provide support and share their knowledge, experiences and expertise with each other. In 2024, this group revived the pre-COVID practice of meeting in person in a host facility, this year meeting at the Peoria County Juvenile Detention Center.
- The JJC continues to contract with the Community Crisis Center (CCC) to provide residents with access to outside victim advocates to make third-party reports and/or receive emotional support services.
- The JJC continues to contract with the Kane County Sheriff's Office to conduct criminal investigations if an allegation of sexual abuse or sexual assault is made. The JJC PREA Team established PREA investigation protocols with the Special

Victims Unit to ensure that all investigations are processed by the same group of officers who are trained on the JJC's protocols.

- The JJC continues to contract with Northwestern Delnor Hospital to provide SANE exams as needed.
- The JJC continues to contract with Ameelio Connect for residents to place anonymous, untracked and unmonitored PREA reports to our external reporting agency.
- The JJC continues to contract with Family Service Association (FSA) to serve as our external reporting agency and established protocols to ensure that Ms. Sierra is immediately notified when reports of sexual abuse or harassment are received. FSA also provides monthly PREA educational groups for JJC residents.
- Ms. Sierra created the JJC PREA Committee, which held its first meeting on September 12, 2024. The committee is broken up into six (6) subcommittees: Unit PREA Boards Maintenance/Updating; Monthly PREA Focus Groups; First Responder Role-Play Activities; Table-Top Training Activities, Quarterly PREA SART Walks and Updating the JJC's VSAB screening tool.
- The JJC PREA Committee implemented Quarterly SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) Walks, and the first round was conducted on October 3, 2024. SART Walks are composed of the PREA Team, an on-duty supervisor, on-duty senior youth counselor and on-duty PREA Committee members. The purpose is to walk the entire facility and check for functionality of camera, intercoms, Ameelio tablets; check for any previously unidentified blind spots; check availability of PREA-related forms, signage and materials (i.e., blinds, blurred shower door paint, etc.); check the security and integrity of locked/restricted doors and performing spot quizzes for residents and staff to ensure that they are knowledgeable about how to report PREA incidents and first-responder duties, respectively.
- The JJC entered into a contract with Tetras Corp. for its PREA Trac software and will utilize the program as a PREA investigations case management system. Since the software was largely tailored to adult confinement facilities, the JJC PREA Team worked with Tetras developers throughout 2024 to create a program that is tailored to juvenile facilities. Tetras intends to market the juvenile program to other facilities when completed.

Facility Achievements in 2025

- The JJC continues to use the Relias online training platform that contains PREA training. We also continue to conduct new-staff PREA training and annual in-house training for all JJC staff members, including volunteers and contractors.
- Ms. Sierra and Ms. Zynda continue to be members in good standing with the National PREA Coordinators Working Group.
- Ms. Sierra and Ms. Zynda continue to be members of the Illinois Statewide PREA Coordinators Group. PREA Coordinators from the participating county-operated

juvenile detention facilities in Illinois provide support and share their knowledge, experiences and expertise with each other.

- The JJC continues to contract with the Community Crisis Center (CCC) to provide residents with access to outside victim advocates to make third-party reports and/or receive emotional support services.
- The JJC continues to contract with the Kane County Sheriff's Office to conduct criminal investigations if an allegation of sexual abuse or sexual assault is made.
- The JJC continues to contract with Northwestern Delnor Hospital to provide SANE exams as needed.
- The JJC continues to contract with Ameelio Connect for residents to place anonymous, untracked and unmonitored PREA reports to our external reporting agency.
- The JJC continues to contract with Family Service Association (FSA) to serve as our external reporting agency. FSA also provides monthly PREA educational groups for JJC residents.
- The JJC PREA Committee continued in 2025 and meetings were held to ensure the facility is in compliance with PREA standards. The committee continues to develop and implement interactive resident focus groups, staff training activities and conduct the quarterly SART walks.
- The JJC discontinued the contract with Tetras Corp. PREATrac and developed and implemented its own internal administration investigation protocol.
- The JJC enrolled one additional supervisor and one additional senior youth counselor in the Sexual Assault (SA) Advocate Training program through CCC so they may serve as sexual assault victim advocates. The JJC now has a total of (6) six SA advocates and is looking to expand this number in 2026.
- The JJC has (10) ten employees who have completed the Moss Group's Specialized PREA Investigator Training: two (2) administrators, three (3) supervisors and five (5) direct-care staff.
- The JJC purchased and installed eight (8) additional security cameras to eliminate blind spots in the secure perimeter. One additional camera was purchased in 2025 to enhance security in the visitation area and is scheduled to be installed in 2026.
- Cameras were added to the JJC's transportation vehicles to ensure PREA compliance while on resident transports.
- The JJC added a RAPTOR Visitor ID system, which runs a LEADS check on all of the JJC's professional visitors prior to them meeting with residents.
- The JJC purchased four (4) Pocketalk devices that assist with non-English speaking residents.
- The JJC downloaded the Hand Talk application on the JJC cell phones to assist with hearing impaired residents who utilize sign language (American Sign Language and others).

- The JJC enabled one of the Ameelio tablets to access the Speech-To-Text and TalkBack functions in order to assist residents who are hearing and/or vision impaired.
- The JJC prepared visual aids and social stories for PREA education to assist residents with intellectual disabilities and/or are on the autism spectrum.
- The JJC repositioned the Central Control Room (CCR) camera to ensure that there are no blind spots in the area.
- Video playback was disabled on the CCR's security system to require staff to notify the on-duty supervisor for video review of suspected PREA issues and to ensure resident and staff confidentiality during PREA investigations.
- The JJC created flowcharts to assist supervisors and youth counselors with consistency when conducting first responder duties and PREA investigative protocols.

Facility Sexual Abuse Data

2016 Facility Sexual Abuse Data				
Category	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending
Resident-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Resident-Resident Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Harassment	1	0	2	0
Total	1	0	2	0

2017 Facility Sexual Abuse Data				
Category	Substantiate	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending
Resident-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Resident-Resident Sexual Harassment	0	0	9	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Harassment	0	0	2	0
Total	0	0	11	0

2018 Facility Sexual Abuse Data				
Category	Substantiate	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending
Resident-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Resident-Resident Sexual Harassment	0	0	7	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Harassment	0	0	1	0
Total	0	0	8	0

2019 Facility Sexual Abuse Data				
Category	Substantiate	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending
Resident-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Resident-Resident Sexual Harassment	0	0	10	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	10	0

2020 Facility Sexual Abuse Data				
Category	Substantiate	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending
Resident-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Resident-Resident Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Harassment	0	0	1	0
Total	0	0	1	0

2021 Facility Sexual Abuse Data				
Category	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending
Resident-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Resident-Resident Sexual Harassment	4	0	0	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0
Total	4	0	0	0

2022 Facility Sexual Abuse Data				
Category	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending
Resident-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Resident-Resident Sexual Harassment	1	0	0	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0
Total	1	0	0	0

2023 JJC PREA Data					
Category	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending	Outside Agency Invest. (Unknown Finding)
Resident-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	5	0	1
Staff-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0	2
Unknown Offender Sexual Abuse	0	0	3	0	0
Resident-Resident Sexual Harassment	0	2	12	0	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Harassment	0	1	7	0	1
Unknown Offender Sexual Harassment	0	0	1	0	0
Total	0	3	28	0	4

2023 Grand Total = 35

2024 JJC PREA Data					
Category	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending	Outside Agency Invest. (Unknown Finding)
Resident-Resident Sexual Abuse	1	0	3	0	3
Staff-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	1	0	1
Unknown Offender Sexual Abuse	0	0	2	0	0
Resident-Resident Sexual Harassment	5	0	12	0	0
Staff-Resident Sexual Harassment	0	0	10	0	0
Unknown Offender Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0
Total	6	0	28	0	4

2024 Grand Total = 38

2025 JJC PREA Data					
Category	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Pending	Total
Resident-Resident Sexual Abuse	1	0	3	0	4
Staff-Resident Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown Offender Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0	0
Resident-Resident Sexual Harassment	1	2	2	0	5
Staff-Resident Sexual Harassment	1	0	0	0	1
Unknown Offender Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3	2	5	0	10

2025 Grand Total = 10

Definition of Findings

Substantiated: Allegation was investigated and the result indicated that the alleged event DID occur.

Unsubstantiated: Allegation was investigated and the result indicated there was insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether or not the event occurred.

Unfounded: Allegation was investigated and the result indicated that the alleged event DID NOT occur.

Outside Agency: Allegation was reported at the JJC, but alleged behavior/offense did not occur at the JJC. The outside agency was notified of the allegation involving their jurisdiction and their responsibility for investigating the allegation. The final finding from the reported incident is unknown to the JJC.

Pending: An allegation was reported, but the investigation has not yet been concluded by either the JJC or the Kane County Sheriff's Office.

Unknown: Allegation did not provide specific information regarding the identity (staff/adult or resident) of the alleged offender.

PREA Sexual Abuse Incident Reviews

A PREA Review Committee was established in 2016 and is tasked with reviewing substantiated or unsubstantiated allegations of sexual abuse as required by PREA standard 115.386. The committee is composed of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent/PREA Coordinator, Mental Health Coordinator, Operations Manager, Supervisors, Mental Health Clinicians, Medical Site Manager and on-duty Supervisors. The committee shall:

- a) Consider whether the allegation or investigation indicates a need to change policy or practice to better prevent, detect or respond to sexual abuse;
- b) Consider whether the incident or allegation was motivated by race, ethnicity, gender identity, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex identification, status or perceived status, or gang affiliation or was motivated or otherwise caused by other group dynamics at the facility;
- c) Examine the area in the facility where the incident allegedly occurred to assess whether physical barriers in the area may enable abuse;
- d) Assess the adequacy of staffing levels in that area during different shifts;
- e) Assess whether monitoring technology should be deployed or augmented to supplement supervision by staff; and
- f) Prepare a report of its findings, including but not necessarily limited to determinations of the above review criteria and any recommendations for improvements and submit such report to the facility head.

There was one substantiated report of sexual abuse within the JJC in 2025, however the PREA Review Committee did not convene and perform a PREA incident review because the incident did not rise to the level of a serious incident of sexual abuse. There was not clear evidence that the resident perpetrator intentionally made physical contact with the victim's buttocks; however, the incident was still reported as it met the technical definition in the PREA standards.

Analysis/ Corrective Action

The JJC analyzed its PREA data from 2025 and compared it to previous years' data and determined that the total number of PREA reports from 2025 was largely consistent with the 2024 data; however, upon discussion with a representative from the United States Census Bureau, it was determined that the JJC would not collect and report to the Survey

of Sexual Victimization (SSV) investigations that: do not fit the PREA Standards' definition of a PREA violation, did not occur on-site at the JJC, or those reports that allegedly occurred in years prior to the current reporting year.

In 2025, there were two individual residents who had a combined total of six (6) investigations between the two of them, only two of which were substantiated. As in 2024, the vast majority of the remaining 2025 PREA reports were unfounded due to finding no evidence that the allegation occurred. Absent these two individual residents, there would only have been four JJC PREA reports in 2025.

The decreased number of 2025 PREA reports (10 total) can be attributed to a change in the way the data is being collected and reported for the Survey of Sexual Victimization (SSV) and the residents have become accustomed to the Ameelio reporting application and are no longer making a substantial number of bad-faith PREA hotline reports.



PREA Coordinator

5/15/26
Date



Executive Director of Court Services

5/27/26
Date