

WHAT I SHOULD KNOW

SCJDC (Spokane County Juvenile Detention Center) is committed to protecting my right to be safe from sexual abuse and sexual harassment in our facilities. There is a **ZERO TOLERANCE** policy toward all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. This means EVERY REPORT of abuse or harassment will be investigated.

So...How will this brochure help me stay safe?

This brochure tells you important information about staying safe and how to take the steps to report abuse or harassment in SCJDC. Youth and staff members safety is one of the most important values of SCJDC.

SPOKANE COUNTY JUVENILE COURT WORKS HARD TO KEEP YOU SAFE

Staff members will do everything they can to keep you safe from abuse. The actions they will take include:

- ◆ Supervising youth closely.
- ◆ Creating and enforcing rules.
- ◆ Holding a person accountable (no matter who they are) if they abuse someone else.
- ◆ Requiring staff members to report the abuse so it can be investigated.

STAYING SAFE

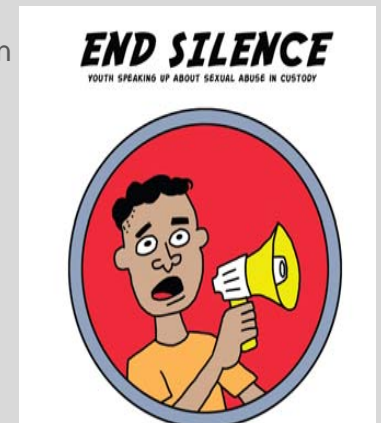
What are some things I can do to remain safe?

- **Do avoid isolated areas.** Place yourself in plain view of staff members. Abuse happens more often when you are isolated and alone with another person than when you are part of a group.
- **Do avoid situations that make you feel uncomfortable.** If a situation feels wrong, it most likely is. Work to get yourself out of the situation and then report it.
- **Do not accept any offer of protection.** Someone offering to protect you from consequences or harm from others will want something in return.
- **Do not accept loans, favors or gifts.** Do not borrow, gamble or trade anything. Avoid owing anything to anyone.
- **Do not let manners get in the way of keeping yourself safe.** Do not be afraid to shout "No" or "Stop it now".
- **Do report incidents and dangerous situations.** This can help staff stop abuse before something happens.
- **Do avoid romantic and sexual activity.** You cannot give consent to have sexual contact with staff. It is prohibited and against the law. Sexual contact between youth in detention is prohibited; you will receive consequences for violating facility rules and, in some cases, it is a crime.

IF SEXUAL ABUSE HAPPENS...

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

- **Report the sexual abuse** to a staff member or an adult you trust or fill out an emergency grievance form. All reports of abuse will be investigated even if the abuse occurred days, weeks, or even years ago.
- **Protection.** Staff will ensure that you are immediately separated and protected from the person that allegedly abused you.
- **Evidence.** Do not shower/wash, eat or drink, use the restroom, brush your teeth or change your clothes. This will help preserve evidence needed for an investigation to take action against the person who abused you.
- **Services.** You will receive emergency medical treatment and be offered access to victim support services and counseling.
- **Retaliation (revenge).** You have a right to be free from retaliation of reporting instances of sexual abuse. Staff will keep a close eye on you and anyone that cooperates with an investigation to protect you against others seeking retaliation. If you are retaliated against.... Report!!



Confidentiality

SCJDC has a confidential process allowing youth to report abuse and receive services. All facility staff members are mandated by law to report abuse. Apart from reporting to supervisors or authorities, staff is prohibited from revealing any information related to a sexual abuse report.

What will happen if I make a false report?

Staff members take reports of abuse very seriously. If you choose to make a false report of abuse against anyone, it will be discovered. Anyone making a false report will be held accountable. This includes loss of privileges and possibly new criminal charges.

Our goal is to provide the safest environment possible. Being honest in what you say and do is a big part of staying safe.

Take Action!

- ⇒ Tell a staff member 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 a staff member or an adult you trust.
- ⇒ If the staff member or adult you trust doesn't take you seriously or does not believe you, tell another staff member or adult you trust about it.

HOW TO REPORT ABUSE

If you are abused or know of someone that has been abused, you need to **report** it. Reporting can be hard to do, but it will help keep you and others safe.

How do I report if I'm staying at SCJC Detention?

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

- Group Leaders / JCOs / Shift Supervisors
- Nurses / Nurse Manager
- Mental Health Professional
- Doctor / Psychiatrist
- Your Probation or Parole Officer
- Your attorney or advocate
- Parents or guardians
- Chaplains or ministers
- An adult you trust

Complete a Youth Emergency Grievance Form

Enclosed in a sealed envelope to the Detention Manager.

If you don't feel comfortable talking with someone in the facility:

You can call the SAFeT 24 Hour Sexual Assault Crisis Line: (509) 624-7273 **or**
Call or Write: Child Protective Services hotline at 1-866-END-Harm (1-866-363-4276)
1313 N Atlantic Spokane WA 99201 **or**
Spokane Police Department
(509) 456-2233

You do not have to give your name but, when you do, it makes the investigation easier.

SPOKANE COUNTY JUVENILE COURT



Youth Safety Guide

What you should know about sexual abuse and sexual harassment

