



Alston Wilkes Society 2021 PREA Annual Report

PREA Background:

A federal law since 2003, the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) requires agencies to comply with the national standards proposed by the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission and approved by the Attorney General to eliminate sexual abuse in custodial corrections settings, including prisons, jails, police lockups, private facilities, and community-based corrections facilities. On August 20, 2012, the final PREA standards became effective and one-third (1/3) of each facility type (Adult Prisons and Jails, Lockups, Community Confinement, and Juvenile) is required to undergo a PREA compliance audit every year, beginning in the year 2014 (no later than August 20, 2014).

The Alston Wilkes Society currently has four (4) Federal Residential Reentry Centers (RRCs) which fall under the facility type of Community Confinement, and one (1) Youth Home which falls under the facility type of Juvenile. It is not currently under our contract with the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice to become PREA compliant; however, we as an agency believe in the core value of the PREA standards and have chosen to implement the policies and procedures necessary at our Youth Home to become PREA compliant.

The Alston Wilkes Society began analyzing our current sexual abuse prevention policies and procedures and implementing the needed PREA standards in May 2013. In 2014, we only operated three (3) RRCs (Columbia, Florence, and North Charleston, SC) and we chose to have our North Charleston RRC undergo the PREA Compliance Audit August 11-12, 2014. That facility received a Prison Rape Elimination Act certification for the period of September 11, 2014 to September 11, 2017. As of February 1, 2015 we began to operate the Fayetteville, NC RRC. That facility received a Prison Rape Elimination Act certification for the period of August 2, 2016 to August 2, 2019. Our Charleston, SC RRC was audited for compliance on December 14, 2020 and we are proud to say they have received a Prison Rape Elimination Act certification for the period of December 14, 2020 to December 14, 2023.

Our Fayetteville RRC was audited for compliance April 12, 2021 and we are proud to say they have received a Prison Rape Elimination Act certification for the period of April 12, 2021 to April 12, 2024. Our Columbia, SC RRC was audited for compliance October 13, 2021 and we are proud to say they have received a Prison Rape Elimination Act certification for the period of October 13, 2021 to October 14, 2024.

Definitions:

Sexual abuse includes touching (either directly or through the clothing) of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks without the person's consent; penetration of someone without their consent; and coercion of sexual contact/penetration by threats of violence or of someone who is unable to consent or refuse. In the case of Staff-on-Client sexual abuse, even if the client consents, it is still considered sexual abuse.

Sexual harassment is repeated and unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, verbal comments, or gestures or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by someone directed toward another.

Substantiated allegation means an allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.

Unsubstantiated allegation means an allegation that was investigated and the investigation produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether or not the event occurred.

Unfounded allegation means an allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

Aggregated Data:

The Alston Wilkes Society collects data from every sexual abuse, harassment, and misconduct allegation according to the most recent version of the Survey of Sexual Violence conducted by the Department of Justice. The data has been aggregated for each facility and the agency as a whole.

Columbia Youth Home

- Total Number of Allegations: 0
- Number of Substantiated Allegations: 0
- Number of Unsubstantiated Allegations: 0
- Number of Unfounded Allegations: 0

Corrective Action: N/A

Columbia, SC Residential Reentry Center

- Total Number of Allegations: 0
- Number of Substantiated Allegations: 0
- Number of Unsubstantiated Allegations: 0
- Number of Unfounded Allegations: 0

Corrective Action: N/A

Florence, SC Residential Reentry Center

- Total Number of Allegations: 1
- Number of Substantiated Allegations: 0
- Number of Unsubstantiated Allegations: 0
- Number of Unfounded Allegations:

2021 Allegation still open pending closure in 2022

Corrective Action: N/A

North Charleston, SC Residential Reentry Center

- Total Number of Allegations: 0
- Number of Substantiated Allegations: 0
- Number of Unsubstantiated Allegations: 0
- Number of Unfounded Allegations: 0

Corrective Action: N/A

Fayetteville, NC Residential Reentry Center

- Total Number of Allegations: 3
- Number of Substantiated Allegations: 0
- Number of Unsubstantiated Allegations: 0
- Number of Unfounded Allegations: 3

Corrective Action: N/A

Agency as a Whole

- Total Number of Allegations: 4
- Number of Substantiated Allegations: 0
- Number of Unsubstantiated Allegations: 0
- Number of Unfounded Allegations: 3

The Alston Wilkes Society will continue to take steps to ensure the safety of our resident population, our staff, and the public by committing to zero tolerance of sexual abuse not just by written policy but through our actions, prevention methods, and response to allegations.

Submitted by Tiffany King-Smith, PREA Coordinator & Toi Reid-Worley VP of Human Resources

S. Anne Walker

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