



Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

Update 7-1-2023

Perseus House, Inc. protects its residents from sexual abuse or harassment of any form. In our Shelter and Transitional Living Programs compliance with PREA and its juvenile standards is required.

All forms of sexual abuse/harassment of center residents are expressly prohibited, whether it be by another resident, staff member, contractor, volunteer, or visitor. All allegations of sexual misconduct, abuse and/or harassment will be taken seriously and will be investigated, both internally and externally. All such incidents shall also be reported to law enforcement authorities and the Office of Children and Youth in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and policy.

Violations of policy is grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment. Additionally, retaliation against any youth or staff who reports or assists in the investigation of alleged sexual misconduct is prohibited and is grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

Sexual Abuse Investigatory Protocols

Perseus House, Inc. ensures that all allegations of sexual abuse and harassment are investigated internally (noncriminal procedural investigations) and externally (criminal investigations).

Perseus House, Inc. does not conduct criminal investigations. Sexual abuse allegations are referred to the Erie Police Department or the Pennsylvania State Police Department. A memorandum of understanding exists between Perseus House and the Erie and Pennsylvania Police Departments.

Residents are afforded 24-hour access, pending safety issues, to victim advocacy through the Crime Victim Center of Erie. Perseus House, Inc. maintains a memorandum of understanding with them as well.

Residents who experience sexual abuse are offered free access to forensic medical exams, when evidentiary or medically appropriate, and free access to necessary medical and mental health services.

Reporting Sexual Misconduct

Allegations of sexual misconduct, including third-party reports, may be reported anonymously to any of the following:

- City of Erie Police Department: 814-870-1125
- Pennsylvania State Police Department: 814-774-9611
- Pennsylvania Childline (24 hours a day): 800-932-0313
- Perseus House, Inc. Administrators: 814-480-5909 located at Perseus House, Inc. 1511 Peach St. Erie, Pa. 16501
 - Mario Mezzacapo, Associate CEO/PREA Coordinator
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 - Bridget Mooney, COO
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