



# Delaware County Sheriff's Office

## Sheriff Jeffrey C. Balzer

~ Protecting People, Their Property, and Their Rights ~

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### 2025 Sexual Abuse Prevention Program Annual Report

The Delaware County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) annually reviews uniform data on how many allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment are made at its Jail, the type of allegation made, and how the allegations were resolved. Pursuant to 28 CFR 115.88, this data is collected and aggregated in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices and training.

This report provides a summary of the sexual incident report data collected in 2025, summarizes problems identified and corrective actions completed, changes made to improve compliance with PREA standards, and identifies continued needs for compliance for the DCSO.

Sexual Harassment includes requests for sexual favors and sexual comments or gestures of a sexual or derogatory nature. Sexual Harassment by staff, contractor or volunteer also includes comments about body, dress, or orientation.

Sexual Abuse includes any sexual contact under or over the clothing of breasts, buttocks, upper thighs or genitalia. Sexual Abuse by a staff member, contract or volunteer also includes voyeurism, an invasion of privacy while showering or performing bodily functions.

Summary of sexual incident allegations received in 2025:

	Reported	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded
Staff on Inmate Sexual Harassment	1	0	0	1
Staff on Inmate Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Inmate on Inmate Sexual Harassment	5	2	2	1
Inmate on Inmate Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0

In adherence to the DCSO's zero-tolerance policy on sexual harassment and sexual abuse, all allegations are initially reviewed to determine whether they meet the criteria for an investigation based on PREA definitions. There was one investigation of staff-on-inmate sexual harassment that included multiple complaints from one individual; all complaints were ultimately unfounded or did not meet the definition of sexual abuse or sexual harassment as defined in PREA standards. There were 5 allegations of inmate-on-inmate sexual harassment.

The jail received no allegations of sexual abuse in 2025, therefore no criminal investigations were completed. However, both substantiated allegations of inmate-on-inmate sexual harassment revealed indicators that sexual abuse may have occurred if reports had not been made and staff had not enforced a zero-tolerance response to each report.



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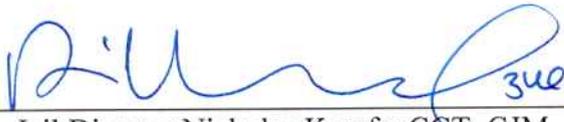
The external reporting hotline with Westerville Police remains a useful tool, providing inmates with the means to report sensitive matters confidentially and anonymously. It is frequently used for matters unrelated to PREA, however information is still shared with jail administration by Westerville Police staff.

The following progressive actions were taken in regards to PREA in 2025:

- In-person PREA Training was conducted as part of annual In-Service training for all non-probationary staff. Training reviewed basics of PREA, such as dynamics of sexual abuse in a correctional setting, signs/symptoms of sexual abuse in men and women, and reporting methods. Details of past investigations were shared, encouraging staff to remain vigilant in prevention and detection of sexual harassment and sexual abuse.
- The Memorandum of Understanding with Westerville Division of Police was revised and renewed for an additional 3-year period.
- Inmates were held accountable for their actions when jail rules were found to have been violated even if sexual harassment or sexual abuse could not be substantiated. This helps reinforce the jail's reporting culture and response procedure, and improve inmate safety.
- Staff received corrective action was taken and documented when policy violations were found, such as staff alerting coworkers when unannounced rounds were occurring or staff failing to announce their presence entering housing units of the opposite sex.

In 2026, the jail will have an audit completed in order to renew the PREA Certification. The National Institute of Corrections is in the process of revising training material. The jail promoted new supervisors in 2025, and the DCSO Detective Bureau has newly appointed detectives, all of whom need to complete specialized training for investigating sexual abuse in confinement settings. Alternative training opportunities are being explored for jail supervisors and detectives in order to meet the requirements of PREA Standard 115.35.

Corrections Officers, Jail Supervisors, and civilian support staff will complete online training modules on PREA topics to maintain relevancy in daily operations.

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Date

Approved by:   
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01/28/2026  
Date

