

PREA Facility Audit Report: Final

Name of Facility: Mechler Unit

Facility Type: Prison / Jail

Date Interim Report Submitted: NA

Date Final Report Submitted: 12/14/2024

Auditor Certification	
The contents of this report are accurate to the best of my knowledge.	<input type="checkbox"/>
No conflict of interest exists with respect to my ability to conduct an audit of the agency under review.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have not included in the final report any personally identifiable information (PII) about any inmate/resident/detainee or staff member, except where the names of administrative personnel are specifically requested in the report template.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Auditor Full Name as Signed: Ronell Prioleau	Date of Signature: 12/14/2024

AUDITOR INFORMATION	
Auditor name:	Prioleau, Ronell
Email:	r.priolo@yahoo.com
Start Date of On-Site Audit:	10/28/2024
End Date of On-Site Audit:	10/30/2024

FACILITY INFORMATION	
Facility name:	Mechler Unit
Facility physical address:	4000 Texas 86, Tulia, Texas - 79088
Facility mailing address:	2 Financial Plaza Suite 105, Huntsville, Texas - 77583

Primary Contact

Name:	Brenda German
Email Address:	Brenda.German@tdcj.texas.gov
Telephone Number:	9364373439

Warden/Jail Administrator/Sheriff/Director	
Name:	Greg Rodriguez
Email Address:	Greg.Rodriguez@tdcj.texas.gov
Telephone Number:	806-995-4109

Facility PREA Compliance Manager	
Name:	Santos Martinez
Email Address:	Santos.Martinez@tdcj.texas.gov
Telephone Number:	806-995-4109

Facility Health Service Administrator On-site	
Name:	Kenzey Wilson
Email Address:	Kenzey.Wilson@ttuhsc.edu
Telephone Number:	806-955-4109 ext 292

Facility Characteristics	
Designed facility capacity:	606
Current population of facility:	595
Average daily population for the past 12 months:	585
Has the facility been over capacity at any point in the past 12 months?	No
What is the facility's population designation?	Mens/boys

<p>Which population(s) does the facility hold? Select all that apply (Nonbinary describes a person who does not identify exclusively as a boy/man or a girl/woman. Some people also use this term to describe their gender expression. For definitions of “intersex” and “transgender,” please see https://www.prearesourcecenter.org/standard/115-5)</p>	
<p>Age range of population:</p>	19-77
<p>Facility security levels/inmate custody levels:</p>	G1, G2, and Transient
<p>Does the facility hold youthful inmates?</p>	No
<p>Number of staff currently employed at the facility who may have contact with inmates:</p>	108
<p>Number of individual contractors who have contact with inmates, currently authorized to enter the facility:</p>	15
<p>Number of volunteers who have contact with inmates, currently authorized to enter the facility:</p>	95

AGENCY INFORMATION

<p>Name of agency:</p>	Texas Department of Criminal Justice
<p>Governing authority or parent agency (if applicable):</p>	
<p>Physical Address:</p>	861 Interstate 45, Huntsville, Texas - 77320
<p>Mailing Address:</p>	PO Box 99, Huntsville, Texas - 77340
<p>Telephone number:</p>	8005350283

Agency Chief Executive Officer Information:

<p>Name:</p>	Bryan Collier
---------------------	---------------

Email Address:	bryan.collier@tdcj.texas.gov
Telephone Number:	936-437-2101

Agency-Wide PREA Coordinator Information			
Name:	Cassandra McGilbra	Email Address:	cassandra.mcgilbra@tdcj.texas.gov

Facility AUDIT FINDINGS	
Summary of Audit Findings	
<p>The OAS automatically populates the number and list of Standards exceeded, the number of Standards met, and the number and list of Standards not met.</p> <p>Auditor Note: In general, no standards should be found to be "Not Applicable" or "NA." A compliance determination must be made for each standard. In rare instances where an auditor determines that a standard is not applicable, the auditor should select "Meets Standard" and include a comprehensive discussion as to why the standard is not applicable to the facility being audited.</p>	
Number of standards exceeded:	
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 115.33 - Inmate education • 115.41 - Screening for risk of victimization and abusiveness • 115.42 - Use of screening information
Number of standards met:	
34	
Number of standards not met:	
0	
<p>Not audited at the facility level: Audited at the agency-level, and not relevant to the facility-level audit because the facility has no independent responsibility for the operation of these standards.</p>	8

AGENCY AUDIT FINDINGS

Summary of Audit Findings

These standards were audited at the agency-level. For more information, please see the attached agency audit report found at the end of this document.

The OAS automatically populates the number and list of Standards exceeded, the number of Standards met, and the number and list of Standards not met.

Auditor Note: In general, no standards should be found to be "Not Applicable" or "NA." A compliance determination must be made for each standard. In rare instances where an auditor determines that a standard is not applicable, the auditor should select "Meets Standard" and include a comprehensive discussion as to why the standard is not applicable to the facility being audited.

Number of standards exceeded:

2

- 115.11 - Zero tolerance of sexual abuse and sexual harassment; PREA coordinator
- 115.12 - Contracting with other entities for the confinement of inmates

Number of standards met:

8

Number of standards not met:

0

POST-AUDIT REPORTING INFORMATION

GENERAL AUDIT INFORMATION

On-site Audit Dates

1. Start date of the onsite portion of the audit:	2024-10-28
2. End date of the onsite portion of the audit:	2024-10-30

Outreach

10. Did you attempt to communicate with community-based organization(s) or victim advocates who provide services to this facility and/or who may have insight into relevant conditions in the facility?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
---	--

AUDITED FACILITY INFORMATION

14. Designated facility capacity:	606
15. Average daily population for the past 12 months:	585
16. Number of inmate/resident/detainee housing units:	26
17. Does the facility ever hold youthful inmates or youthful/juvenile detainees?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Not Applicable for the facility type audited (i.e., Community Confinement Facility or Juvenile Facility)

Audited Facility Population Characteristics on Day One of the Onsite Portion of the Audit

Inmates/Residents/Detainees Population Characteristics on Day One of the Onsite Portion of the Audit

18. Enter the total number of inmates/residents/detainees in the facility as of the first day of onsite portion of the audit:	585
19. Enter the total number of inmates/residents/detainees with a physical disability in the facility as of the first day of the onsite portion of the audit:	1
20. Enter the total number of inmates/residents/detainees with a cognitive or functional disability (including intellectual disability, psychiatric disability, or speech disability) in the facility as of the first day of the onsite portion of the audit:	0
21. Enter the total number of inmates/residents/detainees who are Blind or have low vision (visually impaired) in the facility as of the first day of the onsite portion of the audit:	0
22. Enter the total number of inmates/residents/detainees who are Deaf or hard-of-hearing in the facility as of the first day of the onsite portion of the audit:	5
23. Enter the total number of inmates/residents/detainees who are Limited English Proficient (LEP) in the facility as of the first day of the onsite portion of the audit:	33
24. Enter the total number of inmates/residents/detainees who identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual in the facility as of the first day of the onsite portion of the audit:	1

<p>25. Enter the total number of inmates/residents/detainees who identify as transgender or intersex in the facility as of the first day of the onsite portion of the audit:</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>26. Enter the total number of inmates/residents/detainees who reported sexual abuse in the facility as of the first day of the onsite portion of the audit:</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>27. Enter the total number of inmates/residents/detainees who disclosed prior sexual victimization during risk screening in the facility as of the first day of the onsite portion of the audit:</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>28. Enter the total number of inmates/residents/detainees who were ever placed in segregated housing/isolation for risk of sexual victimization in the facility as of the first day of the onsite portion of the audit:</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>29. Provide any additional comments regarding the population characteristics of inmates/residents/detainees in the facility as of the first day of the onsite portion of the audit (e.g., groups not tracked, issues with identifying certain populations):</p>	<p>No text provided.</p>
<p>Staff, Volunteers, and Contractors Population Characteristics on Day One of the Onsite Portion of the Audit</p>	
<p>30. Enter the total number of STAFF, including both full- and part-time staff, employed by the facility as of the first day of the onsite portion of the audit:</p>	<p>72</p>
<p>31. Enter the total number of VOLUNTEERS assigned to the facility as of the first day of the onsite portion of the audit who have contact with inmates/residents/detainees:</p>	<p>107</p>

32. Enter the total number of CONTRACTORS assigned to the facility as of the first day of the onsite portion of the audit who have contact with inmates/residents/detainees:	13
33. Provide any additional comments regarding the population characteristics of staff, volunteers, and contractors who were in the facility as of the first day of the onsite portion of the audit:	No text provided.
INTERVIEWS	
Inmate/Resident/Detainee Interviews	
Random Inmate/Resident/Detainee Interviews	
34. Enter the total number of RANDOM INMATES/RESIDENTS/DETAINEES who were interviewed:	35
35. Select which characteristics you considered when you selected RANDOM INMATE/RESIDENT/DETAINEE interviewees: (select all that apply)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Age <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Race <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ethnicity (e.g., Hispanic, Non-Hispanic) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Length of time in the facility <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Housing assignment <input type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> None
36. How did you ensure your sample of RANDOM INMATE/RESIDENT/DETAINEE interviewees was geographically diverse?	I reviewed the number of inmates required to interview. I reviewed all the inmate races, age span and varied release dates within the population. I then ensured I considered a variety of race, age and release dates. I further ensured I considered inmates from each housing unit. I also considered program assignments.

37. Were you able to conduct the minimum number of random inmate/resident/detainee interviews?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
38. Provide any additional comments regarding selecting or interviewing random inmates/residents/detainees (e.g., any populations you oversampled, barriers to completing interviews, barriers to ensuring representation):	No text provided.
Targeted Inmate/Resident/Detainee Interviews	
39. Enter the total number of TARGETED INMATES/RESIDENTS/DETAINEES who were interviewed:	8
<p>As stated in the PREA Auditor Handbook, the breakdown of targeted interviews is intended to guide auditors in interviewing the appropriate cross-section of inmates/residents/detainees who are the most vulnerable to sexual abuse and sexual harassment. When completing questions regarding targeted inmate/resident/detainee interviews below, remember that an interview with one inmate/resident/detainee may satisfy multiple targeted interview requirements. These questions are asking about the number of interviews conducted using the targeted inmate/resident/detainee protocols. For example, if an auditor interviews an inmate who has a physical disability, is being held in segregated housing due to risk of sexual victimization, and disclosed prior sexual victimization, that interview would be included in the totals for each of those questions. Therefore, in most cases, the sum of all the following responses to the targeted inmate/resident/detainee interview categories will exceed the total number of targeted inmates/residents/detainees who were interviewed. If a particular targeted population is not applicable in the audited facility, enter "0".</p>	
40. Enter the total number of interviews conducted with inmates/residents/detainees with a physical disability using the "Disabled and Limited English Proficient Inmates" protocol:	0
40. Select why you were unable to conduct at least the minimum required number of targeted inmates/residents/detainees in this category:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Facility said there were "none here" during the onsite portion of the audit and/or the facility was unable to provide a list of these inmates/residents/detainees. <input type="checkbox"/> The inmates/residents/detainees in this targeted category declined to be interviewed.

<p>40. Discuss your corroboration strategies to determine if this population exists in the audited facility (e.g., based on information obtained from the PAQ; documentation reviewed onsite; and discussions with staff and other inmates/residents/detainees).</p>	<p>The completed PAQ information collaborated the numbers provided. Multiple interviews throughout and during the site review did not produce any of this group of inmates I verified by asking all inmates who were interviewed if they were a disabled person or part of a targeted group. I further asked if they knew of any other inmates that may be part of the targeted groups. The auditor interviewed all the residents that were available to interview.</p>
<p>41. Enter the total number of interviews conducted with inmates/residents/detainees with a cognitive or functional disability (including intellectual disability, psychiatric disability, or speech disability) using the "Disabled and Limited English Proficient Inmates" protocol:</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>41. Select why you were unable to conduct at least the minimum required number of targeted inmates/residents/detainees in this category:</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Facility said there were "none here" during the onsite portion of the audit and/or the facility was unable to provide a list of these inmates/residents/detainees.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The inmates/residents/detainees in this targeted category declined to be interviewed.</p>
<p>41. Discuss your corroboration strategies to determine if this population exists in the audited facility (e.g., based on information obtained from the PAQ; documentation reviewed onsite; and discussions with staff and other inmates/residents/detainees).</p>	<p>The completed PAQ information collaborated the numbers provided. Multiple interviews throughout and during the site review did not produce any of this group of inmates I verified by asking all inmates who were interviewed if they were a disabled person or part of a targeted group. I further asked if they knew of any other inmates that may be part of the targeted groups. The auditor interviewed all the residents that were available to interview.</p>
<p>42. Enter the total number of interviews conducted with inmates/residents/detainees who are Blind or have low vision (i.e., visually impaired) using the "Disabled and Limited English Proficient Inmates" protocol:</p>	<p>0</p>

<p>42. Select why you were unable to conduct at least the minimum required number of targeted inmates/residents/detainees in this category:</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Facility said there were "none here" during the onsite portion of the audit and/or the facility was unable to provide a list of these inmates/residents/detainees.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The inmates/residents/detainees in this targeted category declined to be interviewed.</p>
<p>42. Discuss your corroboration strategies to determine if this population exists in the audited facility (e.g., based on information obtained from the PAQ; documentation reviewed onsite; and discussions with staff and other inmates/residents/detainees).</p>	<p>The completed PAQ information collaborated the numbers the facility provided. Multiple interviews conducted and during the site review did not produce any of this targeted group of inmates. I verified by asking all inmates who were interviewed if they were a person with a disability or part of a targeted group. I further asked if they knew of any other inmates that may be part of the targeted groups. The Auditor interviewed all the residents that were available to be interview.</p>
<p>43. Enter the total number of interviews conducted with inmates/residents/detainees who are Deaf or hard-of-hearing using the "Disabled and Limited English Proficient Inmates" protocol:</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>44. Enter the total number of interviews conducted with inmates/residents/detainees who are Limited English Proficient (LEP) using the "Disabled and Limited English Proficient Inmates" protocol:</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>45. Enter the total number of interviews conducted with inmates/residents/detainees who identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual using the "Transgender and Intersex Inmates; Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Inmates" protocol:</p>	<p>1</p>

<p>46. Enter the total number of interviews conducted with inmates/residents/detainees who identify as transgender or intersex using the "Transgender and Intersex Inmates; Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Inmates" protocol:</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>46. Select why you were unable to conduct at least the minimum required number of targeted inmates/residents/detainees in this category:</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Facility said there were "none here" during the onsite portion of the audit and/or the facility was unable to provide a list of these inmates/residents/detainees.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The inmates/residents/detainees in this targeted category declined to be interviewed.</p>
<p>46. Discuss your corroboration strategies to determine if this population exists in the audited facility (e.g., based on information obtained from the PAQ; documentation reviewed onsite; and discussions with staff and other inmates/residents/detainees).</p>	<p>The completed PAQ information collaborated the numbers the facility provided. Multiple interviews conducted and during the site review did not produce any of this targeted group of inmates. I verified by asking all inmates who were interviewed if they were a person with a disability or part of a targeted group. I further asked if they knew of any other inmates that may be part of the targeted groups. The Auditor interviewed all the residents that were available to be interview.</p>
<p>47. Enter the total number of interviews conducted with inmates/residents/detainees who reported sexual abuse in this facility using the "Inmates who Reported a Sexual Abuse" protocol:</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>47. Select why you were unable to conduct at least the minimum required number of targeted inmates/residents/detainees in this category:</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Facility said there were "none here" during the onsite portion of the audit and/or the facility was unable to provide a list of these inmates/residents/detainees.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The inmates/residents/detainees in this targeted category declined to be interviewed.</p>

<p>47. Discuss your corroboration strategies to determine if this population exists in the audited facility (e.g., based on information obtained from the PAQ; documentation reviewed onsite; and discussions with staff and other inmates/residents/detainees).</p>	<p>The completed PAQ information collaborated the numbers the facility provided. Multiple interviews conducted and during the site review did not produce any of this targeted group of inmates. I verified by asking all inmates who were interviewed if they were a person with a disability or part of a targeted group. I further asked if they knew of any other inmates that may be part of the targeted groups. The Auditor interviewed all the residents that were available to be interview.</p>
<p>48. Enter the total number of interviews conducted with inmates/residents/detainees who disclosed prior sexual victimization during risk screening using the "Inmates who Disclosed Sexual Victimization during Risk Screening" protocol:</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>49. Enter the total number of interviews conducted with inmates/residents/detainees who are or were ever placed in segregated housing/isolation for risk of sexual victimization using the "Inmates Placed in Segregated Housing (for Risk of Sexual Victimization/Who Allege to have Suffered Sexual Abuse)" protocol:</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>49. Select why you were unable to conduct at least the minimum required number of targeted inmates/residents/detainees in this category:</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Facility said there were "none here" during the onsite portion of the audit and/or the facility was unable to provide a list of these inmates/residents/detainees.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The inmates/residents/detainees in this targeted category declined to be interviewed.</p>

<p>49. Discuss your corroboration strategies to determine if this population exists in the audited facility (e.g., based on information obtained from the PAQ; documentation reviewed onsite; and discussions with staff and other inmates/residents/detainees).</p>	<p>The completed PAQ information collaborated the numbers the facility provided. Multiple interviews conducted and during the site review did not produce any of this targeted group of inmates. I verified by asking all inmates who were interviewed if they were a person with a disability or part of a targeted group. I further asked if they knew of any other inmates that may be part of the targeted groups. The Auditor interviewed all the residents that were available to be interviewed.</p>
<p>50. Provide any additional comments regarding selecting or interviewing targeted inmates/residents/detainees (e.g., any populations you oversampled, barriers to completing interviews):</p>	<p>No text provided.</p>
<p>Staff, Volunteer, and Contractor Interviews</p>	
<p>Random Staff Interviews</p>	
<p>51. Enter the total number of RANDOM STAFF who were interviewed:</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>52. Select which characteristics you considered when you selected RANDOM STAFF interviewees: (select all that apply)</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Length of tenure in the facility</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shift assignment</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Work assignment</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rank (or equivalent)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (e.g., gender, race, ethnicity, languages spoken)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None</p>
<p>53. Were you able to conduct the minimum number of RANDOM STAFF interviews?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p>

<p>54. Provide any additional comments regarding selecting or interviewing random staff (e.g., any populations you oversampled, barriers to completing interviews, barriers to ensuring representation):</p>	<p>I reviewed the number of staff required to interview. I reviewed all the staff shifts, races, gender and ranking positions or job titles. I then ensured I considered a variety of gender and race and choose persons from each shift. I further ensured I considered staff from varying jobs and disciplines. I also considered the total number of available staff.</p>
---	--

Specialized Staff, Volunteers, and Contractor Interviews

Staff in some facilities may be responsible for more than one of the specialized staff duties. Therefore, more than one interview protocol may apply to an interview with a single staff member and that information would satisfy multiple specialized staff interview requirements.

<p>55. Enter the total number of staff in a SPECIALIZED STAFF role who were interviewed (excluding volunteers and contractors):</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>56. Were you able to interview the Agency Head?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>
<p>57. Were you able to interview the Warden/Facility Director/Superintendent or their designee?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>
<p>58. Were you able to interview the PREA Coordinator?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>
<p>59. Were you able to interview the PREA Compliance Manager?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> NA (NA if the agency is a single facility agency or is otherwise not required to have a PREA Compliance Manager per the Standards)</p>

60. Select which SPECIALIZED STAFF roles were interviewed as part of this audit from the list below: (select all that apply)

- Agency contract administrator
- Intermediate or higher-level facility staff responsible for conducting and documenting unannounced rounds to identify and deter staff sexual abuse and sexual harassment
- Line staff who supervise youthful inmates (if applicable)
- Education and program staff who work with youthful inmates (if applicable)
- Medical staff
- Mental health staff
- Non-medical staff involved in cross-gender strip or visual searches
- Administrative (human resources) staff
- Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) or Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) staff
- Investigative staff responsible for conducting administrative investigations
- Investigative staff responsible for conducting criminal investigations
- Staff who perform screening for risk of victimization and abusiveness
- Staff who supervise inmates in segregated housing/residents in isolation
- Staff on the sexual abuse incident review team
- Designated staff member charged with monitoring retaliation
- First responders, both security and non-security staff
- Intake staff

	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
61. Did you interview VOLUNTEERS who may have contact with inmates/residents/detainees in this facility?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
61. Enter the total number of VOLUNTEERS who were interviewed:	3
61. Select which specialized VOLUNTEER role(s) were interviewed as part of this audit from the list below: (select all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Education/programming <input type="checkbox"/> Medical/dental <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health/counseling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Other
62. Did you interview CONTRACTORS who may have contact with inmates/residents/detainees in this facility?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
62. Enter the total number of CONTRACTORS who were interviewed:	2
62. Select which specialized CONTRACTOR role(s) were interviewed as part of this audit from the list below: (select all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Security/detention <input type="checkbox"/> Education/programming <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medical/dental <input type="checkbox"/> Food service <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance/construction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
63. Provide any additional comments regarding selecting or interviewing specialized staff.	No text provided.

SITE REVIEW AND DOCUMENTATION SAMPLING

Site Review

PREA Standard 115.401 (h) states, "The auditor shall have access to, and shall observe, all areas of the audited facilities." In order to meet the requirements in this Standard, the site review portion of the onsite audit must include a thorough examination of the entire facility. The site review is not a casual tour of the facility. It is an active, inquiring process that includes talking with staff and inmates to determine whether, and the extent to which, the audited facility's practices demonstrate compliance with the Standards. Note: As you are conducting the site review, you must document your tests of critical functions, important information gathered through observations, and any issues identified with facility practices. The information you collect through the site review is a crucial part of the evidence you will analyze as part of your compliance determinations and will be needed to complete your audit report, including the Post-Audit Reporting Information.

64. Did you have access to all areas of the facility?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Was the site review an active, inquiring process that included the following:	
65. Observations of all facility practices in accordance with the site review component of the audit instrument (e.g., signage, supervision practices, cross-gender viewing and searches)?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
66. Tests of all critical functions in the facility in accordance with the site review component of the audit instrument (e.g., risk screening process, access to outside emotional support services, interpretation services)?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
67. Informal conversations with inmates/residents/detainees during the site review (encouraged, not required)?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
68. Informal conversations with staff during the site review (encouraged, not required)?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

<p>69. Provide any additional comments regarding the site review (e.g., access to areas in the facility, observations, tests of critical functions, or informal conversations).</p>	<p>No text provided.</p>
--	--------------------------

Documentation Sampling

Where there is a collection of records to review-such as staff, contractor, and volunteer training records; background check records; supervisory rounds logs; risk screening and intake processing records; inmate education records; medical files; and investigative files-auditors must self-select for review a representative sample of each type of record.

<p>70. In addition to the proof documentation selected by the agency or facility and provided to you, did you also conduct an auditor-selected sampling of documentation?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>
--	--

<p>71. Provide any additional comments regarding selecting additional documentation (e.g., any documentation you oversampled, barriers to selecting additional documentation, etc.).</p>	<p>No text provided.</p>
---	--------------------------

SEXUAL ABUSE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT ALLEGATIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS IN THIS FACILITY

Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment Allegations and Investigations Overview

Remember the number of allegations should be based on a review of all sources of allegations (e.g., hotline, third-party, grievances) and should not be based solely on the number of investigations conducted. Note: For question brevity, we use the term “inmate” in the following questions. Auditors should provide information on inmate, resident, or detainee sexual abuse allegations and investigations, as applicable to the facility type being audited.

72. Total number of SEXUAL ABUSE allegations and investigations overview during the 12 months preceding the audit, by incident type:

	# of sexual abuse allegations	# of criminal investigations	# of administrative investigations	# of allegations that had both criminal and administrative investigations
Inmate-on-inmate sexual abuse	0	0	0	0
Staff-on-inmate sexual abuse	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

73. Total number of SEXUAL HARASSMENT allegations and investigations overview during the 12 months preceding the audit, by incident type:

	# of sexual harassment allegations	# of criminal investigations	# of administrative investigations	# of allegations that had both criminal and administrative investigations
Inmate-on-inmate sexual harassment	0	0	0	0
Staff-on-inmate sexual harassment	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment Investigation Outcomes

Sexual Abuse Investigation Outcomes

Note: these counts should reflect where the investigation is currently (i.e., if a criminal investigation was referred for prosecution and resulted in a conviction, that investigation outcome should only appear in the count for “convicted.”) Do not double count. Additionally, for question brevity, we use the term “inmate” in the following questions. Auditors should provide information on inmate, resident, and detainee sexual abuse investigation files, as applicable to the facility type being audited.

74. Criminal SEXUAL ABUSE investigation outcomes during the 12 months preceding the audit:

	Ongoing	Referred for Prosecution	Indicted/ Court Case Filed	Convicted/ Adjudicated	Acquitted
Inmate-on-inmate sexual abuse	0	0	0	0	0
Staff-on-inmate sexual abuse	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0

75. Administrative SEXUAL ABUSE investigation outcomes during the 12 months preceding the audit:

	Ongoing	Unfounded	Unsubstantiated	Substantiated
Inmate-on-inmate sexual abuse	0	0	0	0
Staff-on-inmate sexual abuse	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

Sexual Harassment Investigation Outcomes

Note: these counts should reflect where the investigation is currently. Do not double count. Additionally, for question brevity, we use the term “inmate” in the following questions. Auditors should provide information on inmate, resident, and detainee sexual harassment investigation files, as applicable to the facility type being audited.

76. Criminal SEXUAL HARASSMENT investigation outcomes during the 12 months preceding the audit:

	Ongoing	Referred for Prosecution	Indicted/ Court Case Filed	Convicted/ Adjudicated	Acquitted
Inmate-on-inmate sexual harassment	0	0	0	0	0
Staff-on-inmate sexual harassment	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0

77. Administrative SEXUAL HARASSMENT investigation outcomes during the 12 months preceding the audit:

	Ongoing	Unfounded	Unsubstantiated	Substantiated
Inmate-on-inmate sexual harassment	0	0	0	0
Staff-on-inmate sexual harassment	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment Investigation Files Selected for Review

Sexual Abuse Investigation Files Selected for Review

78. Enter the total number of SEXUAL ABUSE investigation files reviewed/ sampled:	0
78. Explain why you were unable to review any sexual abuse investigation files:	There were no cases.

<p>79. Did your selection of SEXUAL ABUSE investigation files include a cross-section of criminal and/or administrative investigations by findings/outcomes?</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> NA (NA if you were unable to review any sexual abuse investigation files)</p>
<p>Inmate-on-inmate sexual abuse investigation files</p>	
<p>80. Enter the total number of INMATE-ON-INMATE SEXUAL ABUSE investigation files reviewed/sampled:</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>81. Did your sample of INMATE-ON-INMATE SEXUAL ABUSE investigation files include criminal investigations?</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> NA (NA if you were unable to review any inmate-on-inmate sexual abuse investigation files)</p>
<p>82. Did your sample of INMATE-ON-INMATE SEXUAL ABUSE investigation files include administrative investigations?</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> NA (NA if you were unable to review any inmate-on-inmate sexual abuse investigation files)</p>
<p>Staff-on-inmate sexual abuse investigation files</p>	
<p>83. Enter the total number of STAFF-ON-INMATE SEXUAL ABUSE investigation files reviewed/sampled:</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>84. Did your sample of STAFF-ON-INMATE SEXUAL ABUSE investigation files include criminal investigations?</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> NA (NA if you were unable to review any staff-on-inmate sexual abuse investigation files)</p>

<p>85. Did your sample of STAFF-ON-INMATE SEXUAL ABUSE investigation files include administrative investigations?</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> NA (NA if you were unable to review any staff-on-inmate sexual abuse investigation files)</p>
<p>Sexual Harassment Investigation Files Selected for Review</p>	
<p>86. Enter the total number of SEXUAL HARASSMENT investigation files reviewed/sampled:</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>86. Explain why you were unable to review any sexual harassment investigation files:</p>	<p>There were no cases.</p>
<p>87. Did your selection of SEXUAL HARASSMENT investigation files include a cross-section of criminal and/or administrative investigations by findings/outcomes?</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> NA (NA if you were unable to review any sexual harassment investigation files)</p>
<p>Inmate-on-inmate sexual harassment investigation files</p>	
<p>88. Enter the total number of INMATE-ON-INMATE SEXUAL HARASSMENT investigation files reviewed/sampled:</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>89. Did your sample of INMATE-ON-INMATE SEXUAL HARASSMENT files include criminal investigations?</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> NA (NA if you were unable to review any inmate-on-inmate sexual harassment investigation files)</p>

<p>90. Did your sample of INMATE-ON-INMATE SEXUAL HARASSMENT investigation files include administrative investigations?</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> NA (NA if you were unable to review any inmate-on-inmate sexual harassment investigation files)</p>
<p>Staff-on-inmate sexual harassment investigation files</p>	
<p>91. Enter the total number of STAFF-ON-INMATE SEXUAL HARASSMENT investigation files reviewed/sampled:</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>92. Did your sample of STAFF-ON-INMATE SEXUAL HARASSMENT investigation files include criminal investigations?</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> NA (NA if you were unable to review any staff-on-inmate sexual harassment investigation files)</p>
<p>93. Did your sample of STAFF-ON-INMATE SEXUAL HARASSMENT investigation files include administrative investigations?</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> NA (NA if you were unable to review any staff-on-inmate sexual harassment investigation files)</p>
<p>94. Provide any additional comments regarding selecting and reviewing sexual abuse and sexual harassment investigation files.</p>	<p>No text provided.</p>

SUPPORT STAFF INFORMATION

DOJ-certified PREA Auditors Support Staff

95. Did you receive assistance from any DOJ-CERTIFIED PREA AUDITORS at any point during this audit? REMEMBER: the audit includes all activities from the pre-onsite through the post-onsite phases to the submission of the final report. Make sure you respond accordingly.

- Yes
- No

Non-certified Support Staff

96. Did you receive assistance from any NON-CERTIFIED SUPPORT STAFF at any point during this audit? REMEMBER: the audit includes all activities from the pre-onsite through the post-onsite phases to the submission of the final report. Make sure you respond accordingly.

- Yes
- No

AUDITING ARRANGEMENTS AND COMPENSATION

97. Who paid you to conduct this audit?

- The audited facility or its parent agency
- My state/territory or county government employer (if you audit as part of a consortium or circular auditing arrangement, select this option)
- A third-party auditing entity (e.g., accreditation body, consulting firm)
- Other

Identify the name of the third-party auditing entity

Correctional Consulting Services

Standards	
Auditor Overall Determination Definitions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceeds Standard (Substantially exceeds requirement of standard) • Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the stand for the relevant review period) • Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective actions) 	
Auditor Discussion Instructions	
<p>Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor’s analysis and reasoning, and the auditor’s conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.</p>	

115.11	Zero tolerance of sexual abuse and sexual harassment; PREA coordinator
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy And Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Specialty Staff Interview Notes 5. Site Review Observations <p>The Texas Department of Criminal Justice Agency (TDCJ) and Mechler Unit has a written policy that mandates zero tolerance toward all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment, and it outlines the Agency's approach to preventing, detecting, and responding to such conduct. The Agency has designated an upper-level, agency-wide PREA Coordinator with sufficient time and authority to develop, implement, and</p>

	<p>oversee agency efforts to comply with the PREA standards in all its facilities. During the interviews with the PREA Coordinator /PREA Ombudsman and the PREA Compliance Manager both outlined their duties to illustrate their ability to manage all the required duties associated with their positions. The Auditor reviewed the entire policy and observed staff carry out their duties within the facility. The staff managed incidents according to policy and were able to discuss specifics of the policy.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>
--	--

115.12	Contracting with other entities for the confinement of inmates
	Auditor Overall Determination: Audited at Agency Level
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>This Standard was audited at the Agency level, the Auditor verified and reviewed all the Agency reported information for accuracy.</p> <p>The Mechler Unit does not manage public contracts for the confinement of its inmates.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>

115.13	Supervision and monitoring
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. PREA Coordinator Interview Notes 5. Specialty Staff Interview Notes 6. Site Review Observations 7. Informal Conversations with Staff and Inmates

	<p>The Texas Department of Criminal Justice/Mechler Unit has staffing plan that it reviews on a regular basis that provides adequate levels of staffing, and, where applicable, video monitoring to protect inmates and staff against sexual abuse. During interviews with the Warden and the PREA Compliance Manager, it was confirmed that when establishing and reviewing the staffing plan, considerations are taken for current and new best correctional practices; any judicial or oversight rulings; the physical layout of the facility; the inmate population security level; the staff to inmate ratio to include supervisors; the current programming abilities afforded on each shift; the number of sexual assault incidents within specific areas of the facility; relevant state and local laws and any extenuating circumstances. A review of the staffing plan is conducted and documented yearly, and camera review is completed weekly. Although camera/video coverage is limited throughout the facility, the staffing levels are appropriate and mitigates the minimum video surveillance capabilities within the dated facility layout.</p> <p>TDCJ has a Safe Prisons/PREA Plan that outlines intermediate-level or higher-level supervisors must conduct and document unannounced rounds to identify and deter staff sexual abuse and sexual harassment. The policy and practice include all shifts and must be logged in the housing unit logbook. The policy also prohibits staff from alerting other staff members that these supervisory rounds are occurring, unless such announcement is a security function. The Auditor witnessed these rounds being conducted and reviewed multiple logbooks to verify this was a regular shift function, but irregular timed security function. This was verified by interviewing random staff and inmates.</p> <p>The Auditor reviewed the current staffing plan that was signed by the Warden, Regional Director and signed by the PREA Coordinator in April 2024. There have been no deviations from the staffing plan within the last 12 months. The Auditor confirmed through informal conversations with staff that overtime is used to fill vacant critical posts.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>
--	--

115.14	Youthful inmates
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. Specialty Staff Interview Notes

	<p>4. Informal Conversations with Staff and Inmates</p> <p>5. Site Review Observations</p> <p>The Mechler Unit does not house youthful offenders.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>
--	---

115.15	Limits to cross-gender viewing and searches
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Specialty Staff Interview Notes 5. Site Review Observations 6. Random Staff Interview Notes 7. Targeted Inmate Interview Notes 8. Informal Conversations with Staff 9. Random Inmate Interview Notes <p>The Mechler Unit does not conduct cross-gender visual body cavity searches or strip searches unless in exigent circumstances or when conducted by a medical examiner. The facility does not house female inmates and has not conducted any cross-gender searches within the facility within the last 12 months. The Auditor reviewed policy, that allow inmates to shower, perform bodily functions, and change clothing without non-medical staff of the opposite gender viewing their breasts, buttocks, or genitalia, except in exigent circumstances or when such viewing is incidental to routine cell checks.</p> <p>The current policy also requires staff of the opposite gender to announce their presence when entering an inmate housing unit. Although 10 of 35 inmates interviewed stated female staff do not announce their presence when entering the housing/cellblock areas; the Auditor witnessed this announcement multiple times throughout the site review. The Auditor reentered multiple cellblocks to conduct</p>

	<p>additional random informal conversations with inmates regarding the female staff announcements when entering the cellblocks. The additional informal conversations indicated isolated incidents of female staff not announcing when entering the cellblock. The higher-than-expected number of inmates alleging that female staff do not announce when entering the cellblock area was unverifiable by the auditor.</p> <p>The Auditor noted the unique small 15-25 inmate cellblock entrance design (all glass front with direct sightlines into the open bunk area), small sallyport entrance and cellblock noise levels as compelling indicators to the Auditor that opposite gender announcements are being made when staff enter the housing unit where inmates may be undressed.</p> <p>The Auditor observed all areas of the facility and housing units and noted single person showers in use throughout the facility and appropriate dressing areas. Other areas had pony wall partitions between toilet bowls to create privacy from female staff conducting security rounds. The inmate strip areas had temporary partitions and is only staffed by male security staff. The Auditor noted the shower areas had saloon style doors and shower curtains for privacy.</p> <p>The Mechler Unit has never searched or physically examined a transgender or intersex inmate for the sole purpose of determining the inmate's genital status. If an inmate's genital status is unknown, it would be determined as part of a broader medical examination conducted in private by a medical practitioner or by reviewing medical records or patient-doctor conversations. This was verified through multiple interviews of random staff, specialized staff interviews and informal and formal conversations with transgender inmates. The facility has ensured all security staff are trained on how to conduct cross-gender pat-down searches, and searches of transgender and intersex inmates in a professional and respectful manner, and in the least intrusive manner possible, consistent with security needs. Staff training records and search and seizure training slides were reviewed to verify all staff were trained how to conduct cross-gender searches and pat-down searches of transgender and intersex inmates.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, this Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>
--	---

115.16	Inmates with disabilities and inmates who are limited English proficient
	<p>Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard</p> <p>Auditor Discussion</p> <p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review

	<p>2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses</p> <p>3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan</p> <p>4. Agency Head Designee Interview Notes</p> <p>5. Specialty Staff Interview Notes</p> <p>6. Informal Conversations with Staff</p> <p>7. Site Review Observations</p> <p>8. Targeted Inmate Interview Notes</p> <p>9. Random Staff Interview Notes</p> <p>The Mechler Unit has taken steps to ensure that inmates with disabilities have an equal opportunity to participate in or benefit from all aspects of the Agency’s efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment. These steps include, when necessary to ensure effective communication with inmates who are deaf or hard of hearing, providing access to interpreters who can interpret effectively, accurately, and impartially, both receptively and expressively, using any necessary specialized vocabulary. This Auditor reviewed written materials in Spanish and brail and verified staff interpreters were available throughout the Agency to ensure effective communication with inmates who speak limited English.</p> <p>Inmates with physical disabilities and who have intellectual disabilities, limited reading skills, or who are blind or have low vision are also given the same programming opportunities and access to the facilities efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual assault and sexual harassment. I confirmed the use of staff interpreters as well as the use of a paid interpreter service during random inmate interviews and informal staff conversations; The facility never uses inmate interpreters. The Auditor interviewed three Spanish speaking inmates with staff interpreters. This Auditor interviewed two inmates who were hard of hearing and verified they are allowed to speech-read all information provided to them. All targeted population inmates interviewed confirmed they had received the PREA education and had no problems with obtaining the PREA information during the intake process. All targeted inmates could explain the zero-tolerance policy, knew how to properly report an allegation of sexual abuse, and knew what behavior was considered inappropriate and what behavior is considered sexual abuse.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>
--	--

115.17	Hiring and promotion decisions
	Auditor Overall Determination: Audited at Agency Level
	Auditor Discussion

	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Staff File Reviews 5. Unit Promotions List 6. Specialty Staff Interview Notes 7. PREA Coordinator Interview Notes 8. TDCJ Human Resources Staff Interview Notes <p>This Standard was audited at the Agency level, the Auditor verified and reviewed all the Agency reported information for accuracy.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>
--	--

115.18	Upgrades to facilities and technologies
	<p>Auditor Overall Determination: Audited at Agency Level</p>
	<p>Auditor Discussion</p>
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Agency Head Designee Interview Notes 4. TDCJ PREA Coordinator 5. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 6. Specialty Staff Interview Notes <p>This Standard was audited at the Agency level, the Auditor verified and reviewed all the Agency reported information for accuracy.</p> <p>The Mechler Unit have not added new camera or video equipment however, when they do add new camera or video equipment the Agency with the unit input would consider the effect of the modification upon the agency's ability to protect inmates from sexual abuse. Through interviews with facility leadership, I confirmed that when</p>

	<p>installing or updating a video monitoring system, electronic surveillance system, or other monitoring technology, the facility always considers how such technology will enhance the facilities ability to protect inmates from sexual abuse. This Auditor verified this information with central headquarters staff.</p> <p>After careful and thoughtful review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets this standard.</p>
--	--

115.21	Evidence protocol and forensic medical examinations
	<p>Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard</p> <p>Auditor Discussion</p> <p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Specialty Staff Interview Notes 5. Random Staff Interview Notes 6. Targeted Inmate Interview Notes 7. Informal Conversations with Staff <p>The Mechler Unit adheres to current policies and the TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan, which stipulate that the Agency is responsible for investigating allegations of sexual abuse. The Agency follows a uniform evidence protocol designed to maximize the chances of obtaining usable physical evidence for both administrative proceedings and criminal prosecutions. It is responsible for conducting administrative investigations into sexual assaults. This was confirmed through an interview with the lead investigator at the Unit. Upon reviewing the Agency's protocol, the Auditor concluded that it is suitable for youth and meets national standards, as stated by the lead investigator.</p> <p>The Mechler Unit ensures that inmate victims of sexual abuse have access to forensic medical examinations at external facilities, at no financial cost, when medically appropriate. Currently, there is no Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with an Advocacy Agency; however, the facility/Agency is actively pursuing the establishment of such an agreement. If Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFEs) or Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) are unavailable, examinations are conducted by other qualified medical professionals at the local hospital. The Auditor reviewed and verified an advocacy cancellation of services letter, which cited a lack of available non-profit</p>

	<p>funding. This was corroborated through both formal and informal interviews, as well as the provided documentation.</p> <p>When a crisis center advocate is not available to provide victim advocacy services, the facility uses a qualified staff member from a community-based organization or a qualified member of the Agency/facility staff. During the onsite phase of the audit, the Auditor interviewed the PREA Compliance Manager, who confirmed the institution’s efforts to partner with an external agency for victim advocacy services, although these efforts have not yet been successful. As a result, the institution utilizes an Offender Victim Representative (OVR), a staff member trained to assist sexual abuse victims. This was further supported by both targeted and random interviews with inmates.</p> <p>If requested by the inmate victim, the victim advocate, qualified agency staff member, or qualified community-based organization staff member is present to provide support throughout the forensic medical examination process and investigatory interviews. They offer emotional support, crisis intervention, information, and referrals.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>
--	--

115.22	Policies to ensure referrals of allegations for investigations
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Specialty Staff Interview Notes 5. Informal Conversations with Staff and Inmates <p>The Mechler Unit ensures that an administrative or criminal investigation is completed for all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment accusations. This was confirmed through an interview with the unit lead investigator and the review of current policies, TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan and informal conversations with staff and inmates.</p> <p>The Auditor could not find any reports or grievances related to sexual abuse or sexual harassment that were not investigated properly. There were zero allegations that</p>

	<p>were investigated within the last 12 months. The facility has a policy that governs the investigative process to ensure that all allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment are investigated with the legal authority to conduct criminal investigations and administrative investigations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment in prisons or jails. The PREA Compliance Manager and PREA Coordinator confirmed that there are several policies that mandate the investigation of sexual abuse and sexual harassment allegations at the TDCJ. All criminal investigations are performed by the OIG. The agency publishes this information on its website.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>
--	--

115.31	Employee training
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Specialty Staff Interview Notes 6. Staff File Reviews 7. Informal Conversations with Staff <p>The Mechler Unit has trained all new or transferred in employees who may have contact with inmates on: (1) Its zero-tolerance policy for sexual abuse and sexual harassment; (2) How to fulfill their responsibilities under agency sexual abuse and sexual harassment prevention, detection, reporting, and response policies and procedures; (3) Inmates’ rights to be free from sexual abuse and sexual harassment; (4) The right of inmates and employees to be free from retaliation for reporting sexual abuse and sexual harassment; (5) The dynamics of sexual abuse and sexual harassment in confinement; (6) The common reactions of sexual abuse and sexual harassment victims; (7) How to detect and respond to signs of threatened and actual sexual abuse; (8) How to avoid inappropriate relationships with inmates; (9) How to communicate effectively and professionally with inmates, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, or gender nonconforming inmates; and (10) How to comply with relevant laws related to mandatory reporting of sexual abuse to outside authorities. This was verified by interviewing multiple random staff and all being very familiar with all the training topics and were able to recall the approximate last time they were trained. Several newer staff had laminated cards that outlined the first</p>

	<p>responder response.</p> <p>All current employees at TDCJ receive in-service training annually to ensure that all employees know the Agency’s current sexual abuse and sexual harassment policies and procedures. The annual in-service training is in addition to all new employee PREA training, the agency updates this training yearly on current sexual abuse and sexual harassment policies. This training is tailored to for male inmates because the facility does not house female inmates. All training is electronically documented in the employees training records. I reviewed nine employee training records, and all had documented completion of the initial sexual abuse and sexual harassment prevention training. All random staff interviewed recalled receiving the training.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>
--	---

115.32	Volunteer and contractor training
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. Volunteer Interview Notes 4. Volunteer File Reviews 5. Informal Conversations 6. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 7. Specialty Staff Interview Notes <p>The Mechler Unit ensures that all volunteers and contractors who have contact with inmates are trained on their responsibilities under the agency’s sexual abuse and sexual harassment prevention, detection, and response policies and procedures. Multiple interviews were conducted with contractors and volunteers, and all recalled receiving the sexual assault and sexual harassment prevention training.</p> <p>Specifically, three volunteers and three contractors who have contact with inmates, were interviewed and asked directly if they were notified of the agency’s zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual abuse and sexual harassment and informed how to report such incidents; they all responded in the affirmative. The level and type of training provided to volunteers and contractors varies depending on the level of contact with the inmate population. The Auditor reviewed some signed and some</p>

	<p>computer-generated completion records documentation confirming that volunteers and contractors understood the training they had received. This PREA re-training is either completed online or in-person. I validated the training further with informal conversations with staff and volunteer file reviews.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>
--	---

115.33	Inmate education
	Auditor Overall Determination: Exceeds Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. Informal Conversations with Staff 4. Site Review Observations 5. Random Inmate Interview Notes 6. Inmate File Reviews 7. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 8. Specialty Staff Interview Notes <p>During the intake process at the Mechler Unit, inmates are provided with information outlining the agency’s zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual abuse and sexual harassment, as well as instructions on how to report incidents or suspicions. This information is included in the inmate handbook. This was confirmed through interviews with both inmates and randomly selected staff members. Additionally, I verified the presence of Zero Tolerance Acknowledgment for Offenders Forms in inmate files, ensuring they were signed by the inmates.</p> <p>Inmates participate in an in-depth orientation, during which the facility conducts training on the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). This was corroborated by interviews with leadership staff and informal conversations with inmates. The orientation is conducted within seven days of an inmate's arrival at the facility.</p> <p>The Unit offers educational materials in accessible formats for all inmates, including those who are limited English proficient, deaf, visually impaired, or have other disabilities, as well as inmates with limited reading skills. Educational materials are provided in Spanish, and designated staff members at both the agency and the</p>

	<p>facility offer interpretation for other languages.</p> <p>The Mechler Unit displays key information regarding the zero-tolerance policy and reporting procedures through signage strategically placed throughout the facility. I observed this signage during the facility site review. The Auditor also confirmed that the signage was in place prior to the audit based on interviews with inmates and staff.</p> <p>After a thorough and detailed review of all available information, the Auditor concluded that the facility exceeds the requirements of this standard.</p>
--	---

115.34	Specialized training: Investigations
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Investigator Training Records 5. Informal Conversations with Staff 6. Specialty Staff Interview Notes <p>In addition to the general training provided to all employees as mandated by § 115.31, the Mechler Unit and the Agency assert that its investigators have undergone specialized training for conducting investigations within confinement settings. The Agency’s policy is aligned with established standards.</p> <p>The Agency is responsible for both administrative and criminal investigations pertaining to all incidents of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Investigators from the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) are sworn law enforcement officers trained specifically in conducting criminal investigations. These OIG investigators report to the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, which oversees the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Agency. During the onsite phase of the audit, the Auditor interviewed the unit investigator and PREA Compliance Manager (PCM), who confirmed participation in the investigator training course provided by the Department, successfully earning the corresponding certification. The investigator was able to articulate all key points from this provision and stated that it was included in their training. The Auditor reviewed training records and verified completion of the online course offered by the Department. The training encompassed techniques for interviewing sexual abuse</p>

	<p>victims, evidence collection for sexual abuse in confinement settings, and the necessary criteria and evidence needed to substantiate cases for administrative action or prosecution referral. This was corroborated through interviews with the PREA Compliance Manager and a review of the master training list.</p> <p>I examined all documentation verifying the specialized training attended by the PCM, which was also confirmed during interviews with the investigators. All Agency investigators are certified and have received extensive training in conducting investigations, including specific courses focused on sexual abuse investigations.</p> <p>After a meticulous review of all relevant information, the Auditor determined that the facility complies with the requirements of the standard.</p>
--	--

115.35	Specialized training: Medical and mental health care
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Medical and Mental Health Staff Training Records 5. Specialty Staff Interview Notes <p>The Mechler Unit and the Agency ensures that all full and part-time medical and mental health care practitioners who work regularly in its facilities are trained in: (1) How to detect and assess signs of sexual abuse and sexual harassment; (2) How to preserve physical evidence of sexual abuse; (3) How to respond effectively and professionally to victims of sexual abuse and sexual harassment; and (4) How and to whom to report allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. I confirmed this training with the medical and mental health staff during interviews. The Agency policy is written in accordance with the standard.</p> <p>The medical staff at Mechler Unit do not conduct sexual assault or forensic medical examinations onsite. All forensic medical examinations are conducted at the local emergency room. The medical and mental health care practitioners receive the training mandated for employees under § 115.31 or for contractors under § 115.32, depending upon the practitioner’s status at the agency. TDCJ and Mechler Unit maintains all documentation that medical and mental health practitioners have received the training referenced in this standard either from the Agency or elsewhere.</p>

	<p>The Mechler Unit is providing this specialized training on a yearly basis to all medical and mental health care practitioners. I confirmed this while interviewing the medical supervisor and through informal conversations with medical and mental health practitioners and a review of the training records.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>
--	--

115.41	Screening for risk of victimization and abusiveness
	<p>Auditor Overall Determination: Exceeds Standard</p>
	<p>Auditor Discussion</p> <p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Specialty Staff Interview Notes 5. Site Review Observations 6. Random Inmate Interview Notes 7. Informal Conversations with Staff and Inmates 8. Inmate Record Reviews <p>The Mechler Unit has a policy consistent with the standard. The policy dictates the facility will complete an assessment on all inmates during an intake screening and upon transfer to another facility for their risk of being sexually abused by other inmates or sexually abusive toward other inmates. The Auditor confirmed this policy.</p> <p>The intake screening process considers, at a minimum, (1) The inmate's own perception of vulnerability; (2) The age of the inmate; (3) The physical build of the inmate; (4) Whether the inmate has previously been incarcerated; (5) Whether the inmate's criminal history is exclusively nonviolent; (6) Whether the inmate has prior convictions for sex offenses against an adult or child; (7) Whether the inmate is or is perceived to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex, or gender nonconforming; (8) Whether the inmate has previously experienced sexual victimization; (9) if the inmate has a mental, physical, or developmental disability; and (10) Whether the inmate is detained solely for civil immigration purposes. The auditor reviewed the screening tool to determine if it was objective. The screening tool requires a simple yes or no answer to each of the questions and the scoring system is standard for everyone screened. Because the screening tool does not allow</p>

	<p>for subjective answers, the tool is objective. I confirmed this through interviews and a review of random inmate files.</p> <p>A review of 15 inmate files revealed the screening had been completed on the day of arrival at the Unit. The Auditor interviewed the PREA Compliance Manager regarding the risk screening and confirmed that the screening of all inmates is done within only a few hours of the inmate’s arrival, on the day of intake.</p> <p>The Mechler Unit are reassessing all inmates within 30 days of arrival, this reassessment is being conducted by the classification staff, and they are taking into considerations all information available to them at the time of reassessment. This was confirmed by reviewing the reassessment documentation and staff interviews. The inmate is again reassessed when warranted due to a referral, request, incident of sexual abuse, or receipt of additional information that may change the inmate’s risk of sexual victimization or abusiveness. This was confirmed during the staff interviews and multiple inmate file reviews.</p> <p>Inmates are informed during the screening process that they will not be disciplined for refusing to answer, or for not disclosing complete information. All inmates are free to answer the questions or not. The auditor was told that staff attempt to encourage the inmate to answer the questions by reminding the inmate that the information is used to keep them safe. This was confirmed during review of the screening forms, and during the staff and inmate informal and formal interviews.</p> <p>I was informed during staff interviews and informal conversations with classification staff that the intake self-assessment forms are restricted to staff who require the information such as the PREA Compliance Manager and supervisors. If an inmate is determined to be high risk during the initial assessment, they are referred to mental health for additional screening and offered mental health services.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility exceeds the requirements of this standard.</p>
--	--

115.42	Use of screening information
	Auditor Overall Determination: Exceeds Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Specialty Staff Interview Notes

5. Informal Conversations with Staff and Inmates

6. Targeted Inmate Interview Notes

7. Inmate File Reviews

The Mechler Unit conducts screenings for every inmate upon their arrival at the facility. This information is used to guide decisions regarding housing, bed assignments, work, education, and program placements. The aim is to separate inmates at high risk of sexual victimization from those likely to engage in sexual abuse. The PREA Coordinator confirmed that there is no consent decree in place; instead, inmates are individually screened and housed. This was corroborated by a review of the policy, which adheres to established standards. I further verified these procedures through interviews with staff and random inmates.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) does not assign lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex (LGBTI) inmates to dedicated facilities, units, or wings solely based on their identity or status, unless such placements are mandated by a consent decree, legal settlement, or court ruling designed to protect these inmates.

The Mechler Unit effectively screens inmates before assigning them to cells. Using the information gathered from screenings and inmate self-disclosure forms, the facility can make safe cell assignments for all high-risk inmates, including those who identify as LGBTI. During the on-site phase of the audit, the auditor interviewed the PREA Compliance Manager, who also oversees inmate risk screenings. When asked about how the agency utilizes the risk screening information, they explained that the scores for victimization and abusive behavior risks are entered into the classification system. This system helps ensure that inmates with differing risk scores are not housed together. The Mechler Unit is committed to maintaining the necessary separation for safety. Housing decisions are made on an individual basis and are based on the risk screening scores, affecting not only inmate housing but also their job assignments and program participation. I confirmed this process through interviews with random inmates, informal discussions with staff, and specialized staff interviews.

LGBTI inmates are reassessed as necessary, with a minimum of biannual assessments conducted. This fact was verified through interviews with specialized staff, random inmate interviews, and reviews of facility policy and inmate files. Conversations with inmates and staff revealed that the PREA Compliance Manager maintains an open-door policy and regularly meets with inmates throughout the day at various times. Many staff and inmates believe this open line of communication and ongoing assessments contribute significantly to the absence of sexual abuse incidents within the facility, fostering a safer environment.

After a thorough and detailed review of all relevant information, the auditor concluded that the facility complies with the requirements of this standard.

	<p>Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard</p>
	<p>Auditor Discussion</p>
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Specialty Staff Interview Notes 5. Informal Conversations with Staff 6. Site Review Observations <p>The Mechler Unit and the Agency maintain a protective custody policy that aligns with this standard. According to the policy, no high-risk inmates who are at risk of sexual abuse will be placed in segregated housing unless an assessment reveals that all alternative housing options are inadequate to separate the alleged abuser from the potential or alleged victim. During the onsite phase of the audit, the Auditor interviewed the Warden, who confirmed that involuntary segregation is not employed at Mechler to protect inmates at risk of victimization. Inmates at Mechler are only placed in restricted housing when no other options are available. In cases where inmates choose to be segregated, they are transferred to other units. The Auditor corroborated this information through informal discussions with staff and inmates.</p> <p>Over the past 12 months, the Mechler Unit has not had to place any high-risk inmates in segregation.</p> <p>After a thorough review of all the information, the Auditor concluded that the facility meets the requirements of the standard.</p>

115.51	<p>Inmate reporting</p>
	<p>Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard</p>
	<p>Auditor Discussion</p>
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan

4. Random Staff Interview Notes
5. Random Inmate Interview Notes
6. Site Review Observation
7. Specialty Staff Interview Notes

The Mechler Unit provide multiple internal ways for inmates to privately report sexual abuse and sexual harassment, retaliation by other inmates or staff for reporting sexual abuse and sexual harassment, and staff neglect or violation of responsibilities that may have contributed to such incidents. A random inmate demonstrated the procedure he could privately report a sexual assault or sexual harassment by using his computer tablet. All inmates are issued a computer tablet and can privately report sexual abuse or sexual harassment. Inmates can write letters, request a meeting with a staff member or unit supervisor. The inmates may write a letter to the PREA Ombudsman, the Unit Office of the Inspector General or the Main Office of the Inspector General. I verified the contact information on multiple bulletin boards throughout the audit onsite observation. During the onsite phase of the audit, the Auditor completed a full site review and located the posted zero-tolerance signs throughout the facility with the reporting information for the PREA Ombudsman Office, including the mailing address. The posted signs were written in two languages, English and Spanish. Offenders are also provided this information in the TDCJ Offender Handbook and in the Sexual Abuse Awareness Brochure.

The Auditor interviewed the PREA Compliance Manager, the Unit Safe Prisons PREA Manager and asked about the outside reporting entity. They explained that the PREA Ombudsman office was established specifically to oversee efforts to eliminate sexual abuse and sexual harassment of offenders. The offenders are encouraged to report allegations directly to staff or to the PREA Ombudsman's office. The Auditor interviewed 28 random inmates, and all knew how to report allegations of sexual abuse to the PREA Ombudsman's office. They knew the information was posted on the signs in the housing unit. During the random inmate interviews the inmates consistently were able to name various ways to privately report sexual abuse or sexual harassment. Many inmates mentioned reporting directly to staff or the Unit Safe Prisons PREA Manager (USPPM) as their first avenue to report abuse. That option is displayed clearly throughout the facility.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice also provides a direct phone number and email address to the Inspector General's office on its website for family/third party or staff to report abuse or harassment to a public or private entity or office that is not part of the agency, and that is able to receive and immediately forward inmate or staff reports of sexual abuse and sexual harassment to agency officials, allowing the inmate or staff to remain anonymous upon request.

Random staff that were interviewed all stated they would accept reports made verbally, in writing, anonymously, and from third parties and always promptly document any verbal reports. All staff interviewed were aware of the policy and were able to provide at least one method to privately report sexual abuse and sexual

	<p>harassment of inmates. After the random inmate interviews, I was confident the facility had developed a positive culture around the subject of reporting sexual abuse and sexual harassment.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>
--	---

115.52	Exhaustion of administrative remedies
	<p>Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard</p> <p>Auditor Discussion</p> <p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Random Staff Interview Notes 5. Targeted Inmate Interview Notes 6. Informal Conversations with Staff and Inmates 7. Site Review Observations <p>The Mechler Unit has ensured all provisions of this standard are comprehensively covered in the Agency's Inmate/Offender Grievance Process. To ensure thoroughness, I reviewed this policy; during this review, I also questioned staff regarding their understanding and implementation of the procedure, specifically in the context of grievances related to sexual abuse. The staff demonstrated a clear understanding of the process and were well-versed in the steps to take if an inmate were to file such a grievance. It is worth noting that the audited facility reported zero grievances filed within the last 12 months pertaining to sexual abuse. This information was corroborated through interviews with staff and inmates, as well as a supporting documentation from the facility.</p> <p>Furthermore, the inmates interviewed were aware of their rights and the process to file a grievance concerning sexual abuse. However, they expressed a preference for utilizing other reporting avenues available to them such as reporting anonymously or directly to a staff member. This suggests that while the grievance process is known and understood, inmates feel more comfortable or find it more effective to report through different channels such talking to a trusted staff member. On the staff side, interviewees confirmed their awareness of their duty to assist inmates in filing grievances if requested. They also emphasized their commitment to reporting</p>

	<p>incidents immediately as required by policy and ensuring timely and appropriate responses to any allegations of sexual abuse.</p> <p>The Agency's robust training and clear policies are evident in these practices, demonstrating a well-structured approach to handling grievances involving sexual abuse. Regular training and updates ensure that staff remain knowledgeable and prepared to handle such sensitive matters efficiently and empathetically.</p> <p>After a meticulous review of all the relevant documentation and a comprehensive analysis of the information obtained through interviews at the facility level, I have concluded that the facility does meet the requirements of this standard.</p>
--	---

115.53	Inmate access to outside confidential support services
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Specialty Staff Interview Notes 5. Random Inmate Interview Notes 6. Informal Conversation with Staff and Inmates <p>Offenders within the Mechler Unit/Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) have access to confidential support services, which are outlined in the Agency's policies and procedures and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan. In the inmate handbook, bulletin boards and available on inmate tablets details about the available support services are clearly laid out. Currently, TDCJ does not have an active Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a local crises center; however, inmates do have access to write a letter or make an unmonitored phone call to an agency within the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault directory if requested. Additionally, there are two trained staff inmate victim representatives on the unit. This was verified through interviews with targeted inmates, random inmates and random staff.</p> <p>When incidents occur, inmates receive support equivalent to what they would receive in the community. This consistency ensures that their needs are met regardless of their circumstances. Follow-up mental health care is available for both victims and abusers involved in incidents.</p> <p>The PREA Compliance Manager takes the responsibility of informing inmates about</p>

communication monitoring during orientation. They clarify the extent to which communications will be observed and how reports of abuse will be handled in accordance with mandatory reporting laws. This transparency helps maintain trust and ensures that inmates are aware of the process. This orientation process was verified through formal and informal conversations with inmates and staff. Many inmates interviewed were aware of outside services but had never wanted or needed to use the services.

TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan states, "Attempts shall be made to make a victim advocate from a rape crisis center available to the offender victim first. If a rape crisis center is not able to provide the offender with victim advocate services, the unit shall make available a qualified staff member from a community-based organization. If a qualified staff member from a community-based organization is not able to provide the offender with victim advocate services, the unit shall make available a qualified TDCJ staff member to provide the offender with victim advocate services. Through secure mail and telephone access, it remains confidential whether inmates reach out to the agency. Privacy is respected, and inmates can choose whether to utilize these services. I tested the confidentiality of the advocate contact process while discussing the mail routing procedures. During an interview with the PREA Ombudsman it was disclosed that TDCJ is actively working to establish an MOU with a victim support services advocate agency.

After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.

115.54	Third-party reporting
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Specialty Staff Interview Notes 5. Random Inmate Interview Notes 6. Informal Conversations with Staff and Inmates 7. Site Review Observation <p>The Mechler Unit has established a procedure to receive third-party reports of sexual</p>

	<p>abuse and sexual harassment. The procedures are written in accordance with standard allowing inmates and other outsiders to report incidents on behalf of other inmates. This is described in policy and the TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan. The Agency’s website provides clear instructions for third-party reporting, which were verified during a review.</p> <p>Throughout the Mechler Unit there are posters throughout the facility such as: inmate living units, medical, program areas, intake, visitation, and reception areas regarding third-party reporting and the address required to file the complaint. The inmates are provided an address to contact the Office of State Inspector General, and this information is posted on the PREA intake pamphlet, inmate handbook, PREA video, and signs posted near the inmate information bulletin boards.</p> <p>Multiple inmate interviews indicated knowledge of the third-party reporting methods and inmates advised they felt extremely comfortable reporting all allegations of sexual misconduct. Furthermore, the facility prominently displays signage for third-party reporting avenues in areas accessible to visitors. This was verified through interviews with the PREA Compliance Manager, informal conversations with staff and inmates, observations during the site review and review of facility website.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>
--	--

115.61	Staff and agency reporting duties
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Specialty Staff Interview Notes 5. Random Staff Interview Notes 6. Site Review Observations <p>(a) The Mechler Unit requires all staff to report immediately and according to agency policy any knowledge, suspicion, or information regarding an incident of sexual abuse or sexual harassment that occurred in a facility, whether or not it is part of the agency; retaliation against inmates or staff who reported such an incident; and any staff neglect or violation of responsibilities that may have contributed to an incident</p>

	<p>or retaliation, as evidenced by protocol testing, the site review checklist and interviews with random staff.</p> <p>(b) Apart from reporting to designated supervisors or officials, staff will not reveal any information related to a sexual abuse report to anyone other than to the extent necessary, as specified in agency policy, to make treatment, investigation, and other security and management decisions, as evidenced by policy and interviews with random staff.</p> <p>(c) Medical and mental health practitioners are required to report sexual abuse pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section and to inform inmates of the practitioner's duty to report, and the limitations of confidentiality, at the initiation of services, as evidenced by interviews with medical and mental health staff.</p> <p>(d) During interviews with the Warden and PREA Coordinator, this facility does not house inmates younger than 18 years of age.</p> <p>(e) The Mechler Unit will report all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment, including third-party and anonymous reports, to the facility's designated investigators, as evidenced by investigation policy discussions and in conversations with the Warden.</p> <p>Based on the evidence presented, the facility is compliant with this standard.</p>
--	--

115.62	Agency protection duties
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Specialty Staff Interview Notes 5. Random Staff Interview Notes 6. Informal Conversations with Staff <p>When the Mechler Unit staff learns that an inmate is subject to a substantial risk of imminent sexual abuse, it shall take immediate action to protect the inmate, as evidenced by policy, TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan and interviews with the Agency Head Designee, the Warden and random staff. As notated by the PAQ responses, the facility has not had to initiate this policy within the last 12 months, that an inmate</p>

	<p>was subject to a substantial risk of imminent sexual abuse. The staff interviewed however, understood their responsibility and all random staff interviewed responded that they would immediately take appropriate steps to protect the inmate no matter the circumstances. Informal conversations with inmates also revealed inmates were comfortable that staff would act upon reporting an imminent risk of sexual abuse incident.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>
--	--

115.63	Reporting to other confinement facilities
	<p>Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard</p> <p>Auditor Discussion</p> <p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 4. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 5. Informal Conversations with Staff 6. Specialty Staff Interview Notes <p>When the Mechler Unit receives notification of an allegation that an inmate was sexually abused while confined at another facility, the head of the facility that received the allegation promptly informs the appropriate head of the facility or office within the agency where the alleged abuse occurred. This process is confirmed through existing policies and interviews with the Agency Head Designee, the Warden, and various staff members. The Warden indicated that any notification from an outside agency would be immediately forwarded for investigation. Additionally, the Agency Head clarified that external notifications are referred without delay to the PREA Ombudsman office and to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) for investigation, just as with any other allegation.</p> <p>The Warden of the facility or the relevant agency office that receives such notifications ensures that the allegations are investigated in accordance with established standards, as evidenced by policy documentation and the TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan review, alongside interviews with the Agency Head Designee and the Warden. These notifications are executed as quickly as possible, but not later than 72 hours after the receipt of the allegation, as supported by policy review.</p> <p>After a thorough and meticulous review of all relevant information, the Auditor concluded that the facility complies with the requirements of this standard.</p>

115.64	Staff first responder duties
	<p>Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard</p> <hr/> <p>Auditor Discussion</p> <hr/> <p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Specialty Staff Interview Notes 5. Random Staff Interview Notes 6. Informal Conversations with Staff 7. Targeted Inmate Interview Notes <p>The Mechler Unit/TDCJ has a policy in practice indicating the first responder duties to include a security and non-security staff response when responding to a sexual abuse incident. 1) Separate the alleged victim and abuser; (2) Preserve and protect any crime scene until appropriate steps can be taken to collect any evidence; (3) If the abuse occurred within a time period that still allows for the collection of physical evidence, request that the alleged victim not take any actions that could destroy physical evidence, including, as appropriate, washing, brushing teeth, changing clothes, urinating, defecating, smoking, drinking, or eating; and (4) If the abuse occurred within a time period that still allows for the collection of physical evidence, ensure that the alleged abuser does not take any actions that could destroy physical evidence, including, as appropriate, washing, brushing teeth, changing clothes, urinating, defecating, smoking, drinking, or eating. If the first staff responder is not a security staff member, the responder is required to request that the alleged victim not take any actions that could destroy physical evidence, and then notify security staff, as evidenced by policy reviews, interviews with 12 random staff, with many who were first responders.</p> <p>Based on the evidence provided by the Mechler Unit staff it has a policy and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan governing the staff first responder duties to include a security and non-security staff response. The policy mandates the four-step action plan previously mentioned within the body of the narrative. The Auditor completed many random interviews formal and informal to include the PREA Compliance Manager, first responders and supervisory staff, all indicating they understood the requirements of this standard.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>

115.65	Coordinated response
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Specialty Staff Interview Notes 5. Random Staff Interview Notes 6. Informal Conversations with Staff <p>The Mechler Unit has developed a written institutional plan; the Coordinated Response Plan, to coordinate actions taken in response to an incident of sexual abuse, among staff first responders, medical and mental health practitioners, investigators, and facility leadership, as evidenced by the reviewed documentation provided and an interview with the Warden and other facility leadership.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>

115.66	Preservation of ability to protect inmates from contact with abusers
	Auditor Overall Determination: Audited at Agency Level
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>This Standard was audited at the Agency level, the Auditor verified and reviewed all the Agency reported information for accuracy.</p> <p>As notated in the PAQ and during an interview with the Agency Head Designee, collective bargaining is not recognized by the State of Texas.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>

115.67	Agency protection against retaliation
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard

Auditor Discussion

Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:

1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review
2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses
3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan
4. Specialty Staff Interview Notes
5. Targeted Inmate Interview Notes
6. Agency Head Interview Notes
7. Informal Conversations with Staff

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) and the Mechler Unit have implemented a policy and a TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan to safeguard all inmates and staff who report incidents of sexual abuse or sexual harassment, or who cooperate with investigations regarding these matters. This policy aims to protect individuals from retaliation by other inmates or staff members. Responsibilities for monitoring retaliatory actions will be assigned to specific staff members or departments, as supported by facility policies and interviews with staff.

The Mechler Unit/TDCJ has adopted various protective measures, including housing transfers for victimized inmates or alleged abusers, the removal of suspected staff or inmate abusers from contact with victims, and the provision of emotional support services for those who may fear retaliation for reporting sexual abuse or harassment. These actions are corroborated by reviews of investigative files and interviews with the Agency Head Designee, the Warden, designated staff responsible for monitoring retaliation, and inmates who have reported such abuses.

For a minimum of 90 days following a report of sexual abuse, the facility will monitor the conduct and treatment of both the reporting inmates or staff and the alleged victims. This monitoring is intended to identify any changes that might indicate possible retaliation by inmates or staff, and the facility will take swift action to address any identified instances of retaliation. If initial monitoring suggests a continuing need for oversight, the facility will extend the monitoring period beyond 90 days, as indicated by policy documents, data from retaliation monitoring, and interviews with the Warden and designated staff responsible for these efforts.

For inmate-related cases, monitoring will also include periodic status checks, supported by data gathered during the retaliation monitoring process and interviews with designated staff. If any individual cooperating with an investigation expresses concern about possible retaliation, the facility is prepared to implement appropriate protective measures, as demonstrated by interviews with the Agency Head Designee, the Warden, and various staff members. Although no specific instances of retaliation monitoring were observed in action, the Auditor has confidence in the staff's

	<p>understanding of how to implement the necessary procedures when the situation arises.</p> <p>After a thorough review of all relevant information, the Auditor has concluded that the facility complies with the established standards.</p>
--	---

115.68	Post-allegation protective custody
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Specialty Staff Interview Notes <p>Any use of segregated housing by Mechler Unit to protect an inmate who is alleged to have suffered sexual abuse is subject to the requirements of standard 115.43, as evidenced by review of policy and interviews with the Warden and staff who supervise segregated housing.</p> <p>The TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan, the Protective Safe Keeping Plan and the Transient Status Offenders Directive all address the use of restricted or segregated housing at Mechler Unit and throughout TDCJ. The plan defines offenders pending the outcome of an offender protection investigation as being in transient status. It also states that this status is reserved for offenders who are placed in restrictive housing on a temporary basis pending the outcome of a formal investigation related to allegations of sexual abuse, sexual harassment, extortion, violence, or threats of violence. The plan dictates confinement in restrictive housing shall be in accordance with the appropriate confinement procedures for the offender’s specific category of restrictive housing. Under the review procedures by the Restrictive Housing Committee (RHC) section, the plan states, “All offender initially placed in restrictive housing shall be afforded an initial hearing within 7 days and shall undergo a documentation review by the RHC every 7 days for the first 60 days, and at least every 30 days thereafter to determine if the offender is suitable for placement in a less restrictive category or custody.”</p> <p>Mechler leadership indicated in the pre-audit questionnaire (PAQ) there have been no inmates involuntarily segregated following the report of a sexual abuse allegation over the last 12 months. This was further verified through informal conversations with staff that no inmates were placed in involuntarily segregation following the report of a sexual abuse allegation over the last 12 months.</p>

	<p>It was also notated in the PAQ, and stated by the Warden during an interview no inmates have been placed in segregated housing who alleged to have suffered sexual abuse.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard</p>
--	---

115.71	Criminal and administrative agency investigations
	<p>Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard</p> <p>Auditor Discussion</p> <p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Informal Conversations with Staff 5. Targeted Inmate interview Notes 6. Specialty Staff Interview Notes 7. Site Review Observations <p>The Mechler Unit operating procedure is written in accordance with the standard and states that all investigations into allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment will be done promptly, thoroughly, and objectively for all allegations, including third party and anonymous reports. Policy and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan requires that the Agency conduct both administrative and criminal investigations of sexual abuse and harassment. The policy requires that investigations are responded to promptly. Mechler Unit investigates all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment, including third-party and anonymous reports administratively. The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) conducts all criminal investigations. The provided and reviewed policy requires administrative investigations to include efforts to determine whether staff actions or failure to act contributed to an act of sexual abuse. Investigative reports are required to include a description of physical evidence, testimonial evidence, the reason behind credibility assessments, and investigative facts and findings.</p> <p>The OIG is notified immediately upon the Unit learning of the allegation. Immediate steps are taken to preserve evidence upon learning of the allegation and initiating the investigation. The investigation process for third-party allegations is the same, except there is a requirement to ask the alleged victim if they want the OIG to continue to</p>

	<p>investigate the allegation or to stop the investigation. This step must be completed before the investigation can move forward.</p> <p>The PREA Compliance Manager and other unit investigators all appear knowledgeable in conducting sexual abuse and sexual harassment investigations in accordance with the elements of the standard. All TDCJ units and OIG investigators have received specialized training in conducting sexual abuse investigations in confinement settings.</p> <p>If an allegation is reported anonymously, the Investigators stated the investigation would be handled the same as any other investigation. Investigative staff indicate they would continue the investigation even if an inmate is released or a staff member terminates employment during the investigation. The lead unit investigator and PREA Compliance Manager stated that they will complete each investigation all the way thru, even when the involved parties leave employment or are released or transferred.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>
--	---

115.72	Evidentiary standard for administrative investigations
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Specialty Staff Interview Notes 5. Informal Conversations with Staff <p>The Mechler Unit policy and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan is written in compliance with the requirements of the standard and imposes no standard higher than a preponderance of the evidence in determining whether allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment are substantiated. It was confirmed through multiple staff interviews that Mechler Unit imposes no standard higher than preponderance of the evidence in making determinations. This is documented as a section of the investigator training, which all designated investigators have completed.</p> <p>The PREA Compliance Manager and other unit investigators were able to articulate what preponderance meant and how they arrive at the basis for they determinations.</p>

	<p>This was confirmed by reviewing policy and interviewing one investigator and the PREA Compliance Manager.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>
--	--

115.73	Reporting to inmates
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Specialty Staff Interview Notes 5. Targeted Inmate Interviews 6. Informal Conversations with Staff <p>The operating procedure for the TDCJ/Mechler Unit is established in accordance with established standards. It mandates that inmates are informed when an investigation into a sexual abuse allegation concludes, regardless of whether the allegation is substantiated, unsubstantiated, or unfounded. If a staff member is found to have committed sexual abuse against an offender, the PREA Compliance Manager or investigator is required to notify the offender in the following circumstances: if the allegation is deemed unfounded, if it is deemed unsubstantiated, if the staff member is no longer assigned to the offender's unit, if the staff member is no longer employed at the facility, if the facility becomes aware that the staff member has been indicted on a charge related to sexual abuse, or if the facility learns that the staff member has been convicted on such a charge. This procedure was validated through a review of policy documents, the Safe Prisons/PREA Plan, and multiple interviews with leadership at the Mechler Unit. In a prior telephone interview before the Auditor's onsite review, the Warden confirmed that inmates are consistently informed of investigation outcomes at the conclusion of the inquiry. The Warden reaffirmed this notification process in subsequent onsite discussions.</p> <p>According to both policy and the TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan, the PREA Compliance Manager or unit investigator is responsible for notifying the inmate. When an offender alleges sexual abuse by another inmate, the PREA Compliance Manager or unit investigator must inform the offender under certain conditions: if the allegation is found to be unfounded or unsubstantiated, if the facility learns that the accused has</p>

	<p>been indicted for sexual abuse-related charges, or if it learns that the alleged abuser has been convicted of such charges. This process was corroborated by informal conversations with staff and randomly selected inmates, who accurately recalled the policy and various specific requirements. The staff demonstrated a thorough understanding of the notification obligations.</p> <p>This notification process was further confirmed through interviews with the facility leadership and verified by reviewing the outcome of an inmate to Auditor correspondence inquiry and resolution. While the Mechler Unit reported zero incidents of sexual abuse in the PAQ, the Warden acknowledged during an onsite interview that one PREA allegation investigation was initiated by the staff at Mechler Unit but was ultimately administratively concluded by the Safe Prisons/PREA Management Office. The inmate involved was notified of the outcome. Though the Auditor could not access specific electronic files, the Warden provided a credible memorandum detailing the sequence of events to the Auditor. Furthermore, the notified inmate confirmed the notification in both his grievances and during his interview with the Auditor. The Agency holds responsibility for notifications regarding both administrative and criminal investigations.</p> <p>After a thorough review of all relevant information, the Auditor determined that the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>
--	---

115.76	Disciplinary sanctions for staff
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Random Staff Interview Notes 5. Specialty Staff Interview Notes 6. Informal Conversations with Staff <p>The TDCJ/Mechler Unit disciplinary policies were reviewed and are meeting the requirements of the standard. Staff is subject to disciplinary sanctions up to and including termination for violating the sexual abuse or sexual harassment policies. Policy and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan requires that staff found responsible for sexual</p>

	<p>abuse of an inmate shall be terminated from employment. Employees who are found to have violated Agency policy related to sexual abuse and harassment, but not actually engaging in sexual abuse shall be disciplined in a manner commensurate with the nature and circumstances or the acts, as well as the previous disciplinary history of the staff and comparable to offenses by other staff with similar disciplinary histories.</p> <p>In accordance with policy, TDCJ notifies law enforcement agencies and relevant licensing bodies when criminal violations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment are committed by staff. Any terminations or resignations by staff who would have been terminated if not for their resignation are reported, unless that activity was clearly not criminal. The Agency's policy requires staff who are terminated or resign in lieu of termination for violating sexual abuse or sexual harassment policies are notified of the agency's responsibility to report such violations to licensing bodies and/or law enforcement agencies.</p> <p>During an interview with the Warden, it was stated that although there have been no staff terminations during the last 12 months, the Agency and the facility has a zero-tolerance policy on any allegations of sexual misconduct, including if staff members are involved. The presumptive discipline for violating this policy is termination.</p> <p>Informal interviews with facility staff and administrators verified that staff are aware of the disciplinary sanctions for violating the agency's sexual abuse policies and consider a violation of the PREA policy to be of sufficient seriousness to warrant termination and prosecution in accordance with the law. In both formal and informal staff interviews, the staff were aware that the agency has a zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual abuse and any such incidents would be investigated and reported to the appropriate agency for prosecution, if necessary.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>
--	---

115.77	Corrective action for contractors and volunteers
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Specialty Staff Interview Notes

	<p>5. Informal Interview Notes</p> <p>6. Volunteer Training Records</p> <p>7. Volunteer and Contractor Interview Notes</p> <p>The TDCJ/Mechler Unit, PREA and disciplinary policies were reviewed and are following the requirements of the standard. Policy stipulates that contractors and volunteers who violate the sexual abuse or sexual harassment policies are prohibited from having contact with inmates and will have their entrance memorandum revoked. The disciplinary sanctions for volunteers or contractors are like those of the disciplinary sanctions for staff members. Policy states if there is an investigation and the individual is determined to have committed acts of sexual abuse or sexual harassment, the case will be referred for criminal prosecution and to any relevant licensing bodies. Additionally, the Agency will take measures to prevent contact from the volunteer or contractor with any offender within the TDCJ system.</p> <p>The Mechler Unit reported that in the past 12 months, there have been no instances where volunteers or contractors have engaged in sexual abuse or harassment. Staff verified during targeted interviews that there had been no instances of sexual abuse or harassment by contractors or volunteers in the past 12 months.</p> <p>Targeted interviews with contract staff verified that they consider a violation of the PREA policy to be of sufficient seriousness to warrant termination from the facility. The contract staff were aware that the Agency has a zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual abuse and any such incidents would be investigated and reported to the appropriate agency for prosecution, if necessary. The Auditor conducted three telephone interviews with volunteers and two in-person interviews with medical contractors. The Volunteers and Contractors all stated they had received training on the PREA rules and were aware of the agency's zero tolerance policy.</p> <p>Volunteers and contractors are made aware of the facility's sexual abuse and sexual harassment policies during their initial training and orientation prior to providing services in the facility. Each volunteer and contractor attend training and signs an acknowledgement of understanding for the training, which is retained in their file. The Auditor verified this through training records and file reviews that volunteers and contractors at the facility had received training and reviewed the policies.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>
--	--

115.78	Disciplinary sanctions for inmates
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion

Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:

1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review
2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses
3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan
4. Informal Conversations with Staff
5. Specialty Staff Interview Notes

TDCJ/Mechler Unit operating procedure directs that inmates are not permitted to engage in non-coercive sexual contact and may be disciplined for such behavior. Policy dictates that staff is prohibited from disciplining an inmate who makes a report of sexual abuse in good faith and based on a reasonable belief the incident occurred, even if the investigation does not establish sufficient evidence to substantiate the allegation. If it is determined that the inmate did commit sexual abuse in the correctional setting, they will be subject to disciplinary sanctions commensurate with the level of the infraction, and other disciplinary sanctions of others with the same or similar infractions. The Auditor reviewed inmate files, inmate records and interviewed random staff, including an interview with the PREA Compliance Manager. There is no evidence to suggest an inmate received a disciplinary charge for making an allegation of sexual abuse or sexual harassment in good faith.

TDCJ/Mechler Unit prohibits sexual activity between inmates. Inmates found to have participated in sexual activity are internally disciplined for such activity. If the sexual activity between inmates is found to be consensual, staff will not consider the sexual activity as an act of sexual abuse. Instances of sexual activity between inmates, if reported to be consensual, are still investigated and each case is taken at face value. This was verified through informal and formal interviews with staff.

TDCJ/Mechler Unit operating procedure states inmates are subject to formal disciplinary action following an administrative finding that they engaged in inmate-on-inmate sexual abuse. According to the submitted PAQ, there have been no substantiated instances of inmate-on-inmate sexual abuse. Any substantiated reports of inmate-on-inmate abuse would result in a disciplinary charge for the perpetrator. There have been no criminal findings of guilt for inmate-on-inmate sexual abuse in this review period.

According to policy and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan, disciplinary action for inmates is proportional to the abuse committed as well as the history of sanctions for similar offenses by other inmates with similar histories. Agency policy requires that staff consider whether an inmate's mental health contributed to their behavior before determining their disciplinary sanctions. There are psychology staff available to provide mental health services to the inmates at Mechler Unit. Any decision to offer counseling or therapy to offenders and the initiation of any such counseling or therapy for individuals who have committed sexual offenses would be done at the discretion of the mental health staff in conjunction with a treatment plan for the

	<p>offender. Psychology staff stated that they would provide services to inmate perpetrators, if requested.</p> <p>Unit policy stipulates that inmates will not be disciplined for sexual contact with staff unless it is substantiated that the staff did not consent. There were no substantiated instances of inmate on staff sexual assault during the audit period. Interviews with staff and inmates confirmed their knowledge of the policy regarding inmates engaging in non-coerced sexual activity.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>
--	---

115.81	Medical and mental health screenings; history of sexual abuse
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Specialty Staff Interview Notes 5. Informal Conversations with Staff 6. Targeted Inmate Interview Notes 7. Site Review Observation 8. Inmate File Reviews <p>TDCJ/Mechler Unit has policies in place that comply with the provisions of this standard. As previously stated under standard 115.41 the medical department does a second screening of the inmates and asks questions relative to sexual victimization as well as sexual abusiveness. If it is found that any inmate has experienced sexual assault in the community or a facility they will be offered and scheduled for an evaluation with a mental health practitioner within 14 days. I confirmed these evaluations with the medical and mental health personnel by reviewing mental health referral notes as well as during the random inmate interviews. The Auditor interviewed one inmate who reported prior sexual victimization during their risk screening. The inmate told the Auditor that they were provided the opportunity to meet with someone from mental health. The inmate added that first meeting happened the first week they arrived at Mechler Unit. The Auditor interviewed the PREA Compliance Manager who is responsible to perform the intake screening. The</p>

	<p>Auditor was told that all offenders who report prior sexual abuse are offered an appointment with medical and mental health. The referral is documented in the inmate file. This was further confirmed by reviewing progress note samples and random staff responsible for risk screenings.</p> <p>The Mechler Unit ensures any information related to sexual victimization or abusiveness that occurred in an institutional setting is strictly limited to medical and mental health practitioners and other need to know staff, if required to inform treatment plans and security and management decisions, including housing, bed, work, education, and program assignments, or as otherwise required by Federal, State, or local law, as evidenced by the site review checklist.</p> <p>Medical and mental health practitioners always obtain informed consent from inmates before reporting information about prior sexual victimization not related to the correctional or institutional setting, unless the inmate is under the age of 18. During the onsite phase of the audit, the Auditor interviewed two staff members from the medical department. Both told the Auditor that informed consent was a requirement before they could disclose information to other staff.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>
--	---

115.82	Access to emergency medical and mental health services
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Specialty Staff Interview Notes 5. Informal Interview Notes <p>TDCJ/Mechler Unit staff ensure that victims of sexual abuse receive prompt and appropriate medical intervention. The nature and scope are determined by medical and mental health practitioners according to their professional judgment. This was verified through progress note samples and interviews with medical and mental health staff and the PREA Compliance Manager.</p> <p>The Mechler Unit provides on call 24-hour medical coverage; any inmate involved in a sexual abuse incident would immediately be brought to medical or transported to the</p>

	<p>local hospital for an evaluation. If no qualified medical or mental health practitioners are on duty at the time a report of recent abuse is made, security staff first responders always take preliminary steps to protect the victim pursuant to § 115.62 and will immediately notify the appropriate medical and mental health practitioners, as evidenced by interviews with first responders. This was confirmed during random staff interviews.</p> <p>The policy and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan further state that prophylactic treatment and testing is offered to the inmate, as well as follow up care for sexually transmitted or other communicable diseases. An evaluation by a mental health provider is completed for crisis intervention counseling and long term follow up plans. The Auditor reviewed mental health referral dates as part of the verification of evidence.</p> <p>During the onsite phase of the audit, the Auditor interviewed one staff member from the medical department; A contracted registered nurse confirmed that any inmate who was the victim of sexual abuse would be immediately brought to the medical department as part of the coordinated response plan to an allegation of sexual abuse. The first step taken would be to evaluate the inmate for injuries and the urgent need for medical care. Special care would be taken to ensure that any evidence would be preserved. This evaluation is done immediately and is based on the medical professional’s credentials. These policies and procedures were confirmed with the PREA Compliance Manager and mental health staff during interviews. All medical and mental health services related to victim services are provided to the victim without financial cost and regardless of whether the victim names the abuser or cooperates with any investigation arising out of the incident, as evidenced by facility policy.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>
--	---

115.83	Ongoing medical and mental health care for sexual abuse victims and abusers
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Specialty Staff Interview Notes 5. Informal Conversations with Staff

	<p>TDCJ/Mechler Unit staff offer medical treatment and mental health evaluations to all inmates who have been victimized by sexual abuse, as evidenced by policy review staff interviews. The facility provides on-call 24-hour medical coverage, any inmate involved in a sexual abuse incident would immediately be brought to medical for an evaluation or transported to the local hospital for an evaluation. The evaluation and treatment of such victims includes, as appropriate, follow-up services, treatment plans, and, when necessary, referrals for continued care following their transfer to, or placement in, other facilities, or their release from custody, as evidenced by interviews with medical and mental health staff and random inmates.</p> <p>TDCJ/Mechler Unit medical and mental healthcare policy is written in accordance with the standard and specifically states that prophylactic treatment and testing is offered to the patient, as well as follow up care for sexually transmitted or other communicable diseases. An evaluation by a mental health provider is completed for crisis intervention counseling and long term follow up plans. Regardless of whether the victim names the abuser or cooperates with any investigation arising out of the incident, the services are offered at no financial cost to the inmate. These policies and procedures were confirmed with the medical and mental health staff during interviews and informal interviews with inmates.</p> <p>TDCJ/Mechler Unit attempts to conduct a mental health evaluation of all known inmate-on-inmate abusers within 60 days of learning of such abuse history and offer treatment when deemed appropriate by mental health practitioners, facility staff provide these victims with medical and mental health services consistent with the community level of care as evidenced by policy, informal discussions and interviews with medical and mental health staff.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>
--	--

115.86	Sexual abuse incident reviews
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Specialty Staff Interview Notes <p>The Mechler Unit has policy in place that outlines the facilities review of sexual abuse and sexual harassment incidents. The policy is written in accordance with all</p>

provisions of the standard. Mechler Unit conducts a sexual abuse incident review at the conclusion of every substantiated and unsubstantiated sexual abuse investigation, including where the allegation has not been substantiated, unless the allegation has been determined to be unfounded, as evidenced by policy, sexual abuse incident review samples and sexual abuse investigation reviews. Although no incident reviews were conducted within the last 12 months these reviews ordinarily occur within 30 days of the conclusion of the investigation, as evidenced by the Warden and PREA Compliance Manager interview notes.

The review team includes upper-level management officials, with input from line supervisors, investigators, and medical or mental health practitioners, this was confirmed by reviewing sexual abuse incident review sample form and an interview with the Warden.

As evidenced by sexual abuse incident review samples and interviews with the Warden, PREA Compliance Manager and incident review team members, the review team always (1) Consider whether the allegation or investigation indicates a need to change policy or practice to better prevent, detect, or respond to sexual abuse; (2) 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; (3) Examine the area in the facility where the incident allegedly occurred to assess whether physical barriers in the area may enable abuse; (4) Assess the adequacy of staffing levels in that area during different shifts; (5) Assess whether monitoring technology should be deployed or augmented to supplement supervision by staff; and (6) Prepare a report of its findings, including but not necessarily limited to determinations made pursuant to this section, and any recommendations for improvement and submit such report to the facility head and PREA compliance manager.

The Mechler Unit utilizes a sexual abuse incident review form, which then becomes part of the investigative file which address all the questions of concern when reviewing an incident. If recommendations are made because of the incident review the facility implements the improvements or document its reasons for not doing so. I confirmed the incident review process during staff interviews and reviewed policy. The PREA Compliance Manger and many department heads were informally interviewed and understood the process for reviewing incidents, documentation requirements and implementation processes that may follow.

After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.

115.87	Data collection
	Auditor Overall Determination: Audited at Agency Level

	<p>Auditor Discussion</p>
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan <p>This Standard was audited at the Agency level, the Auditor verified and reviewed all the Agency reported information for accuracy.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard</p>

115.88	Data review for corrective action
	<p>Auditor Overall Determination: Audited at Agency Level</p>
	<p>Auditor Discussion</p>
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan <p>This Standard was audited at the Agency level, the Auditor verified and reviewed all the Agency reported information for accuracy.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard</p>

115.89	Data storage, publication, and destruction
	<p>Auditor Overall Determination: Audited at Agency Level</p>
	<p>Auditor Discussion</p>
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses

	<p>3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan</p> <p>This Standard was audited at the Agency level, the Auditor verified and reviewed all the Agency reported information for accuracy.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard</p>
--	--

115.401	Frequency and scope of audits
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review 2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses 3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan 4. Specialty Staff Interview Notes 5. Inmate Correspondence 6. List of Inmates Interviewed 7. Site Review Observations 8. Informal Conversations with Staff and Inmates <p>The Auditor had access to, and observed, all areas of the audited facility, as evidenced by the site review checklist. The Auditor was permitted to request and receive copies of any relevant documents (including electronically stored information). The Auditor was permitted to conduct private interviews with inmates. Inmates were permitted to send confidential information or correspondence to the auditor in the same manner as if they were communicating with legal counsel, as evidenced by the Notice of Audit and observations made during the site review. The auditor received one written letter from inmates related to this facility.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>

115.403	Audit contents and findings
	Auditor Overall Determination: Audited at Agency Level

	<p>Auditor Discussion</p> <p>Evidence relied upon to make Compliance Determination:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. TDCJ Policy and Document Review2. Pre-Audit Questionnaire Responses3. TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan <p>This Standard was audited at the Agency level, the Auditor verified and reviewed all the Agency reported information for accuracy.</p> <p>After a careful and detailed review of all the information, the Auditor determined the facility meets the requirements of this standard.</p>
--	---

Appendix: Provision Findings		
115.11 (a)	Zero tolerance of sexual abuse and sexual harassment; PREA coordinator	
	Does the agency have a written policy mandating zero tolerance toward all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment?	yes
	Does the written policy outline the agency's approach to preventing, detecting, and responding to sexual abuse and sexual harassment?	yes
115.11 (c)	Zero tolerance of sexual abuse and sexual harassment; PREA coordinator	
	If this agency operates more than one facility, has each facility designated a PREA compliance manager? (N/A if agency operates only one facility.)	yes
	Does the PREA compliance manager have sufficient time and authority to coordinate the facility's efforts to comply with the PREA standards? (N/A if agency operates only one facility.)	yes
115.12 (a)	Contracting with other entities for the confinement of inmates	
	If this agency is public and it contracts for the confinement of its inmates with private agencies or other entities including other government agencies, has the agency included the entity's obligation to comply with the PREA standards in any new contract or contract renewal signed on or after August 20, 2012? (N/A if the agency does not contract with private agencies or other entities for the confinement of inmates.)	yes
115.12 (b)	Contracting with other entities for the confinement of inmates	
	Does any new contract or contract renewal signed on or after August 20, 2012 provide for agency contract monitoring to ensure that the contractor is complying with the PREA standards? (N/A if the agency does not contract with private agencies or other entities for the confinement of inmates.)	yes
115.13 (a)	Supervision and monitoring	
	Does the facility have a documented staffing plan that provides for adequate levels of staffing and, where applicable, video monitoring, to protect inmates against sexual abuse?	yes
	In calculating adequate staffing levels and determining the need for video monitoring, does the staffing plan take into consideration: Generally accepted detention and correctional	yes

	practices?	
	In calculating adequate staffing levels and determining the need for video monitoring, does the staffing plan take into consideration: Any judicial findings of inadequacy?	yes
	In calculating adequate staffing levels and determining the need for video monitoring, does the staffing plan take into consideration: Any findings of inadequacy from Federal investigative agencies?	yes
	In calculating adequate staffing levels and determining the need for video monitoring, does the staffing plan take into consideration: Any findings of inadequacy from internal or external oversight bodies?	yes
	In calculating adequate staffing levels and determining the need for video monitoring, does the staffing plan take into consideration: All components of the facility's physical plant (including "blind-spots" or areas where staff or inmates may be isolated)?	yes
	In calculating adequate staffing levels and determining the need for video monitoring, does the staffing plan take into consideration: The composition of the inmate population?	yes
	In calculating adequate staffing levels and determining the need for video monitoring, does the staffing plan take into consideration: The number and placement of supervisory staff?	yes
	In calculating adequate staffing levels and determining the need for video monitoring, does the staffing plan take into consideration: The institution programs occurring on a particular shift?	yes
	In calculating adequate staffing levels and determining the need for video monitoring, does the staffing plan take into consideration: Any applicable State or local laws, regulations, or standards?	yes
	In calculating adequate staffing levels and determining the need for video monitoring, does the staffing plan take into consideration: The prevalence of substantiated and unsubstantiated incidents of sexual abuse?	yes
	In calculating adequate staffing levels and determining the need for video monitoring, does the staffing plan take into consideration: Any other relevant factors?	yes
115.13 (b)	Supervision and monitoring	

	In circumstances where the staffing plan is not complied with, does the facility document and justify all deviations from the plan? (N/A if no deviations from staffing plan.)	yes
115.13 (c) Supervision and monitoring		
	In the past 12 months, has the facility, in consultation with the agency PREA Coordinator, assessed, determined, and documented whether adjustments are needed to: The staffing plan established pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section?	yes
	In the past 12 months, has the facility, in consultation with the agency PREA Coordinator, assessed, determined, and documented whether adjustments are needed to: The facility's deployment of video monitoring systems and other monitoring technologies?	yes
	In the past 12 months, has the facility, in consultation with the agency PREA Coordinator, assessed, determined, and documented whether adjustments are needed to: The resources the facility has available to commit to ensure adherence to the staffing plan?	yes
115.13 (d) Supervision and monitoring		
	Has the facility/agency implemented a policy and practice of having intermediate-level or higher-level supervisors conduct and document unannounced rounds to identify and deter staff sexual abuse and sexual harassment?	yes
	Is this policy and practice implemented for night shifts as well as day shifts?	yes
	Does the facility/agency have a policy prohibiting staff from alerting other staff members that these supervisory rounds are occurring, unless such announcement is related to the legitimate operational functions of the facility?	yes
115.14 (a) Youthful inmates		
	Does the facility place all youthful inmates in housing units that separate them from sight, sound, and physical contact with any adult inmates through use of a shared dayroom or other common space, shower area, or sleeping quarters? (N/A if facility does not have youthful inmates (inmates <18 years old).)	na
115.14 (b) Youthful inmates		
	In areas outside of housing units does the agency maintain sight and sound separation between youthful inmates and adult inmates? (N/A if facility does not have youthful inmates (inmates <18 years old).)	na

	In areas outside of housing units does the agency provide direct staff supervision when youthful inmates and adult inmates have sight, sound, or physical contact? (N/A if facility does not have youthful inmates (inmates <18 years old).)	na
115.14 (c)	Youthful inmates	
	Does the agency make its best efforts to avoid placing youthful inmates in isolation to comply with this provision? (N/A if facility does not have youthful inmates (inmates <18 years old).)	na
	Does the agency, while complying with this provision, allow youthful inmates daily large-muscle exercise and legally required special education services, except in exigent circumstances? (N/A if facility does not have youthful inmates (inmates <18 years old).)	na
	Do youthful inmates have access to other programs and work opportunities to the extent possible? (N/A if facility does not have youthful inmates (inmates <18 years old).)	na
115.15 (a)	Limits to cross-gender viewing and searches	
	Does the facility always refrain from conducting any cross-gender strip or cross-gender visual body cavity searches, except in exigent circumstances or by medical practitioners?	yes
115.15 (b)	Limits to cross-gender viewing and searches	
	Does the facility always refrain from conducting cross-gender pat-down searches of female inmates, except in exigent circumstances? (N/A if the facility does not have female inmates.)	na
	Does the facility always refrain from restricting female inmates' access to regularly available programming or other out-of-cell opportunities in order to comply with this provision? (N/A if the facility does not have female inmates.)	na
115.15 (c)	Limits to cross-gender viewing and searches	
	Does the facility document all cross-gender strip searches and cross-gender visual body cavity searches?	yes
	Does the facility document all cross-gender pat-down searches of female inmates (N/A if the facility does not have female inmates)?	no
115.15 (d)	Limits to cross-gender viewing and searches	
	Does the facility have policies that enables inmates to shower, perform bodily functions, and change clothing without nonmedical staff of the opposite gender viewing their breasts, buttocks, or	yes

	genitalia, except in exigent circumstances or when such viewing is incidental to routine cell checks?	
	Does the facility have procedures that enables inmates to shower, perform bodily functions, and change clothing without nonmedical staff of the opposite gender viewing their breasts, buttocks, or genitalia, except in exigent circumstances or when such viewing is incidental to routine cell checks?	yes
	Does the facility require staff of the opposite gender to announce their presence when entering an inmate housing unit?	yes
115.15 (e)	Limits to cross-gender viewing and searches	
	Does the facility always refrain from searching or physically examining transgender or intersex inmates for the sole purpose of determining the inmate's genital status?	yes
	If an inmate's genital status is unknown, does the facility determine genital status during conversations with the inmate, by reviewing medical records, or, if necessary, by learning that information as part of a broader medical examination conducted in private by a medical practitioner?	yes
115.15 (f)	Limits to cross-gender viewing and searches	
	Does the facility/agency train security staff in how to conduct cross-gender pat down searches in a professional and respectful manner, and in the least intrusive manner possible, consistent with security needs?	yes
	Does the facility/agency train security staff in how to conduct searches of transgender and intersex inmates in a professional and respectful manner, and in the least intrusive manner possible, consistent with security needs?	yes
115.16 (a)	Inmates with disabilities and inmates who are limited English proficient	
	Does the agency take appropriate steps to ensure that inmates with disabilities have an equal opportunity to participate in or benefit from all aspects of the agency's efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment, including: inmates who are deaf or hard of hearing?	yes
	Does the agency take appropriate steps to ensure that inmates with disabilities have an equal opportunity to participate in or benefit from all aspects of the agency's efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment, including: inmates who are blind or have low vision?	yes

	Does the agency take appropriate steps to ensure that inmates with disabilities have an equal opportunity to participate in or benefit from all aspects of the agency's efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment, including: inmates who have intellectual disabilities?	yes
	Does the agency take appropriate steps to ensure that inmates with disabilities have an equal opportunity to participate in or benefit from all aspects of the agency's efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment, including: inmates who have psychiatric disabilities?	yes
	Does the agency take appropriate steps to ensure that inmates with disabilities have an equal opportunity to participate in or benefit from all aspects of the agency's efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment, including: inmates who have speech disabilities?	yes
	Does the agency take appropriate steps to ensure that inmates with disabilities have an equal opportunity to participate in or benefit from all aspects of the agency's efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment, including: Other (if "other," please explain in overall determination notes.)	yes
	Do such steps include, when necessary, ensuring effective communication with inmates who are deaf or hard of hearing?	yes
	Do such steps include, when necessary, providing access to interpreters who can interpret effectively, accurately, and impartially, both receptively and expressively, using any necessary specialized vocabulary?	yes
	Does the agency ensure that written materials are provided in formats or through methods that ensure effective communication with inmates with disabilities including inmates who: Have intellectual disabilities?	yes
	Does the agency ensure that written materials are provided in formats or through methods that ensure effective communication with inmates with disabilities including inmates who: Have limited reading skills?	yes
	Does the agency ensure that written materials are provided in formats or through methods that ensure effective communication with inmates with disabilities including inmates who: are blind or have low vision?	yes
115.16 (b)	Inmates with disabilities and inmates who are limited English proficient	

	Does the agency take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to all aspects of the agency's efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment to inmates who are limited English proficient?	yes
	Do these steps include providing interpreters who can interpret effectively, accurately, and impartially, both receptively and expressively, using any necessary specialized vocabulary?	yes
115.16 (c)	Inmates with disabilities and inmates who are limited English proficient	
	Does the agency always refrain from relying on inmate interpreters, inmate readers, or other types of inmate assistance except in limited circumstances where an extended delay in obtaining an effective interpreter could compromise the inmate's safety, the performance of first-response duties under §115.64, or the investigation of the inmate's allegations?	yes
115.17 (a)	Hiring and promotion decisions	
	Does the agency prohibit the hiring or promotion of anyone who may have contact with inmates who has engaged in sexual abuse in a prison, jail, lockup, community confinement facility, juvenile facility, or other institution (as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1997)?	yes
	Does the agency prohibit the hiring or promotion of anyone who may have contact with inmates who has been convicted of engaging or attempting to engage in sexual activity in the community facilitated by force, overt or implied threats of force, or coercion, or if the victim did not consent or was unable to consent or refuse?	yes
	Does the agency prohibit the hiring or promotion of anyone who may have contact with inmates who has been civilly or administratively adjudicated to have engaged in the activity described in the two bullets immediately above?	yes
	Does the agency prohibit the enlistment of services of any contractor who may have contact with inmates who has engaged in sexual abuse in a prison, jail, lockup, community confinement facility, juvenile facility, or other institution (as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1997)?	yes
	Does the agency prohibit the enlistment of services of any contractor who may have contact with inmates who has been convicted of engaging or attempting to engage in sexual activity in the community facilitated by force, overt or implied threats of force, or coercion, or if the victim did not consent or was unable to	yes

	consent or refuse?	
	Does the agency prohibit the enlistment of services of any contractor who may have contact with inmates who has been civilly or administratively adjudicated to have engaged in the activity described in the two bullets immediately above?	yes
115.17 (b) Hiring and promotion decisions		
	Does the agency consider any incidents of sexual harassment in determining whether to hire or promote anyone who may have contact with inmates?	yes
	Does the agency consider any incidents of sexual harassment in determining whether to enlist the services of any contractor who may have contact with inmates?	yes
115.17 (c) Hiring and promotion decisions		
	Before hiring new employees who may have contact with inmates, does the agency perform a criminal background records check?	yes
	Before hiring new employees who may have contact with inmates, does the agency, consistent with Federal, State, and local law, make its best efforts to contact all prior institutional employers for information on substantiated allegations of sexual abuse or any resignation during a pending investigation of an allegation of sexual abuse?	yes
115.17 (d) Hiring and promotion decisions		
	Does the agency perform a criminal background records check before enlisting the services of any contractor who may have contact with inmates?	yes
115.17 (e) Hiring and promotion decisions		
	Does the agency either conduct criminal background records checks at least every five years of current employees and contractors who may have contact with inmates or have in place a system for otherwise capturing such information for current employees?	yes
115.17 (f) Hiring and promotion decisions		
	Does the agency ask all applicants and employees who may have contact with inmates directly about previous misconduct described in paragraph (a) of this section in written applications or interviews for hiring or promotions?	yes
	Does the agency ask all applicants and employees who may have	yes

	contact with inmates directly about previous misconduct described in paragraph (a) of this section in any interviews or written self-evaluations conducted as part of reviews of current employees?	
	Does the agency impose upon employees a continuing affirmative duty to disclose any such misconduct?	yes
115.17 (g)	Hiring and promotion decisions	
	Does the agency consider material omissions regarding such misconduct, or the provision of materially false information, grounds for termination?	yes
115.17 (h)	Hiring and promotion decisions	
	Does the agency provide information on substantiated allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment involving a former employee upon receiving a request from an institutional employer for whom such employee has applied to work? (N/A if providing information on substantiated allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment involving a former employee is prohibited by law.)	yes
115.18 (a)	Upgrades to facilities and technologies	
	If the agency designed or acquired any new facility or planned any substantial expansion or modification of existing facilities, did the agency consider the effect of the design, acquisition, expansion, or modification upon the agency's ability to protect inmates from sexual abuse? (N/A if agency/facility has not acquired a new facility or made a substantial expansion to existing facilities since August 20, 2012, or since the last PREA audit, whichever is later.)	
115.18 (b)	Upgrades to facilities and technologies	
	If the agency installed or updated a video monitoring system, electronic surveillance system, or other monitoring technology, did the agency consider how such technology may enhance the agency's ability to protect inmates from sexual abuse? (N/A if agency/facility has not installed or updated a video monitoring system, electronic surveillance system, or other monitoring technology since August 20, 2012, or since the last PREA audit, whichever is later.)	
115.21 (a)	Evidence protocol and forensic medical examinations	
	If the agency is responsible for investigating allegations of sexual abuse, does the agency follow a uniform evidence protocol that maximizes the potential for obtaining usable physical evidence for administrative proceedings and criminal prosecutions? (N/A if the	yes

	agency/facility is not responsible for conducting any form of criminal OR administrative sexual abuse investigations.)	
115.21 (b)	Evidence protocol and forensic medical examinations	
	Is this protocol developmentally appropriate for youth where applicable? (N/A if the agency/facility is not responsible for conducting any form of criminal OR administrative sexual abuse investigations.)	yes
	Is this protocol, as appropriate, adapted from or otherwise based on the most recent edition of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women publication, "A National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations, Adults/Adolescents," or similarly comprehensive and authoritative protocols developed after 2011? (N/A if the agency/facility is not responsible for conducting any form of criminal OR administrative sexual abuse investigations.)	yes
115.21 (c)	Evidence protocol and forensic medical examinations	
	Does the agency offer all victims of sexual abuse access to forensic medical examinations, whether on-site or at an outside facility, without financial cost, where evidentiarily or medically appropriate?	yes
	Are such examinations performed by Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFEs) or Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) where possible?	yes
	If SAFEs or SANEs cannot be made available, is the examination performed by other qualified medical practitioners (they must have been specifically trained to conduct sexual assault forensic exams)?	yes
	Has the agency documented its efforts to provide SAFEs or SANEs?	yes
115.21 (d)	Evidence protocol and forensic medical examinations	
	Does the agency attempt to make available to the victim a victim advocate from a rape crisis center?	yes
	If a rape crisis center is not available to provide victim advocate services, does the agency make available to provide these services a qualified staff member from a community-based organization, or a qualified agency staff member? (N/A if the agency always makes a victim advocate from a rape crisis center available to victims.)	yes

	Has the agency documented its efforts to secure services from rape crisis centers?	yes
115.21 (e)	Evidence protocol and forensic medical examinations	
	As requested by the victim, does the victim advocate, qualified agency staff member, or qualified community-based organization staff member accompany and support the victim through the forensic medical examination process and investigatory interviews?	yes
	As requested by the victim, does this person provide emotional support, crisis intervention, information, and referrals?	yes
115.21 (f)	Evidence protocol and forensic medical examinations	
	If the agency itself is not responsible for investigating allegations of sexual abuse, has the agency requested that the investigating agency follow the requirements of paragraphs (a) through (e) of this section? (N/A if the agency/facility is responsible for conducting criminal AND administrative sexual abuse investigations.)	yes
115.21 (h)	Evidence protocol and forensic medical examinations	
	If the agency uses a qualified agency staff member or a qualified community-based staff member for the purposes of this section, has the individual been screened for appropriateness to serve in this role and received education concerning sexual assault and forensic examination issues in general? (N/A if agency always makes a victim advocate from a rape crisis center available to victims.)	yes
115.22 (a)	Policies to ensure referrals of allegations for investigations	
	Does the agency ensure an administrative or criminal investigation is completed for all allegations of sexual abuse?	yes
	Does the agency ensure an administrative or criminal investigation is completed for all allegations of sexual harassment?	yes
115.22 (b)	Policies to ensure referrals of allegations for investigations	
	Does the agency have a policy and practice in place to ensure that allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment are referred for investigation to an agency with the legal authority to conduct criminal investigations, unless the allegation does not involve potentially criminal behavior?	yes

	Has the agency published such policy on its website or, if it does not have one, made the policy available through other means?	yes
	Does the agency document all such referrals?	yes
115.22 (c)	Policies to ensure referrals of allegations for investigations	
	If a separate entity is responsible for conducting criminal investigations, does the policy describe the responsibilities of both the agency and the investigating entity? (N/A if the agency/facility is responsible for criminal investigations. See 115.21(a).)	yes
115.31 (a)	Employee training	
	Does the agency train all employees who may have contact with inmates on its zero-tolerance policy for sexual abuse and sexual harassment?	yes
	Does the agency train all employees who may have contact with inmates on how to fulfill their responsibilities under agency sexual abuse and sexual harassment prevention, detection, reporting, and response policies and procedures?	yes
	Does the agency train all employees who may have contact with inmates on inmates' right to be free from sexual abuse and sexual harassment?	yes
	Does the agency train all employees who may have contact with inmates on the right of inmates and employees to be free from retaliation for reporting sexual abuse and sexual harassment?	yes
	Does the agency train all employees who may have contact with inmates on the dynamics of sexual abuse and sexual harassment in confinement?	yes
	Does the agency train all employees who may have contact with inmates on the common reactions of sexual abuse and sexual harassment victims?	yes
	Does the agency train all employees who may have contact with inmates on how to detect and respond to signs of threatened and actual sexual abuse?	yes
	Does the agency train all employees who may have contact with inmates on how to avoid inappropriate relationships with inmates?	yes
	Does the agency train all employees who may have contact with inmates on how to communicate effectively and professionally with inmates, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, or gender nonconforming inmates?	yes

	Does the agency train all employees who may have contact with inmates on how to comply with relevant laws related to mandatory reporting of sexual abuse to outside authorities?	yes
115.31 (b)	Employee training	
	Is such training tailored to the gender of the inmates at the employee's facility?	yes
	Have employees received additional training if reassigned from a facility that houses only male inmates to a facility that houses only female inmates, or vice versa?	yes
115.31 (c)	Employee training	
	Have all current employees who may have contact with inmates received such training?	yes
	Does the agency provide each employee with refresher training every two years to ensure that all employees know the agency's current sexual abuse and sexual harassment policies and procedures?	yes
	In years in which an employee does not receive refresher training, does the agency provide refresher information on current sexual abuse and sexual harassment policies?	yes
115.31 (d)	Employee training	
	Does the agency document, through employee signature or electronic verification, that employees understand the training they have received?	yes
115.32 (a)	Volunteer and contractor training	
	Has the agency ensured that all volunteers and contractors who have contact with inmates have been trained on their responsibilities under the agency's sexual abuse and sexual harassment prevention, detection, and response policies and procedures?	yes
115.32 (b)	Volunteer and contractor training	
	Have all volunteers and contractors who have contact with inmates been notified of the agency's zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual abuse and sexual harassment and informed how to report such incidents (the level and type of training provided to volunteers and contractors shall be based on the services they provide and level of contact they have with inmates)?	yes
115.32 (c)	Volunteer and contractor training	

	Does the agency maintain documentation confirming that volunteers and contractors understand the training they have received?	yes
115.33 (a)	Inmate education	
	During intake, do inmates receive information explaining the agency's zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual abuse and sexual harassment?	yes
	During intake, do inmates receive information explaining how to report incidents or suspicions of sexual abuse or sexual harassment?	yes
115.33 (b)	Inmate education	
	Within 30 days of intake, does the agency provide comprehensive education to inmates either in person or through video regarding: Their rights to be free from sexual abuse and sexual harassment?	yes
	Within 30 days of intake, does the agency provide comprehensive education to inmates either in person or through video regarding: Their rights to be free from retaliation for reporting such incidents?	yes
	Within 30 days of intake, does the agency provide comprehensive education to inmates either in person or through video regarding: Agency policies and procedures for responding to such incidents?	yes
115.33 (c)	Inmate education	
	Have all inmates received the comprehensive education referenced in 115.33(b)?	yes
	Do inmates receive education upon transfer to a different facility to the extent that the policies and procedures of the inmate's new facility differ from those of the previous facility?	yes
115.33 (d)	Inmate education	
	Does the agency provide inmate education in formats accessible to all inmates including those who are limited English proficient?	yes
	Does the agency provide inmate education in formats accessible to all inmates including those who are deaf?	yes
	Does the agency provide inmate education in formats accessible to all inmates including those who are visually impaired?	yes
	Does the agency provide inmate education in formats accessible to all inmates including those who are otherwise disabled?	yes

	Does the agency provide inmate education in formats accessible to all inmates including those who have limited reading skills?	yes
115.33 (e)	Inmate education	
	Does the agency maintain documentation of inmate participation in these education sessions?	yes
115.33 (f)	Inmate education	
	In addition to providing such education, does the agency ensure that key information is continuously and readily available or visible to inmates through posters, inmate handbooks, or other written formats?	yes
115.34 (a)	Specialized training: Investigations	
	In addition to the general training provided to all employees pursuant to §115.31, does the agency ensure that, to the extent the agency itself conducts sexual abuse investigations, its investigators receive training in conducting such investigations in confinement settings? (N/A if the agency does not conduct any form of administrative or criminal sexual abuse investigations. See 115.21(a).)	yes
115.34 (b)	Specialized training: Investigations	
	Does this specialized training include techniques for interviewing sexual abuse victims? (N/A if the agency does not conduct any form of administrative or criminal sexual abuse investigations. See 115.21(a).)	yes
	Does this specialized training include proper use of Miranda and Garrity warnings? (N/A if the agency does not conduct any form of administrative or criminal sexual abuse investigations. See 115.21(a).)	yes
	Does this specialized training include sexual abuse evidence collection in confinement settings? (N/A if the agency does not conduct any form of administrative or criminal sexual abuse investigations. See 115.21(a).)	yes
	Does this specialized training include the criteria and evidence required to substantiate a case for administrative action or prosecution referral? (N/A if the agency does not conduct any form of administrative or criminal sexual abuse investigations. See 115.21(a).)	yes
115.34 (c)	Specialized training: Investigations	

	Does the agency maintain documentation that agency investigators have completed the required specialized training in conducting sexual abuse investigations? (N/A if the agency does not conduct any form of administrative or criminal sexual abuse investigations. See 115.21(a).)	yes
115.35 (a)	Specialized training: Medical and mental health care	
	Does the agency ensure that all full- and part-time medical and mental health care practitioners who work regularly in its facilities have been trained in how to detect and assess signs of sexual abuse and sexual harassment? (N/A if the agency does not have any full- or part-time medical or mental health care practitioners who work regularly in its facilities.)	yes
	Does the agency ensure that all full- and part-time medical and mental health care practitioners who work regularly in its facilities have been trained in how to preserve physical evidence of sexual abuse? (N/A if the agency does not have any full- or part-time medical or mental health care practitioners who work regularly in its facilities.)	yes
	Does the agency ensure that all full- and part-time medical and mental health care practitioners who work regularly in its facilities have been trained in how to respond effectively and professionally to victims of sexual abuse and sexual harassment? (N/A if the agency does not have any full- or part-time medical or mental health care practitioners who work regularly in its facilities.)	yes
	Does the agency ensure that all full- and part-time medical and mental health care practitioners who work regularly in its facilities have been trained in how and to whom to report allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse and sexual harassment? (N/A if the agency does not have any full- or part-time medical or mental health care practitioners who work regularly in its facilities.)	yes
115.35 (b)	Specialized training: Medical and mental health care	
	If medical staff employed by the agency conduct forensic examinations, do such medical staff receive appropriate training to conduct such examinations? (N/A if agency medical staff at the facility do not conduct forensic exams or the agency does not employ medical staff.)	na
115.35 (c)	Specialized training: Medical and mental health care	
	Does the agency maintain documentation that medical and mental health practitioners have received the training referenced in this standard either from the agency or elsewhere? (N/A if the agency does not have any full- or part-time medical or mental	yes

	health care practitioners who work regularly in its facilities.)	
115.35 (d)	Specialized training: Medical and mental health care	
	Do medical and mental health care practitioners employed by the agency also receive training mandated for employees by §115.31? (N/A if the agency does not have any full- or part-time medical or mental health care practitioners employed by the agency.)	yes
	Do medical and mental health care practitioners contracted by or volunteering for the agency also receive training mandated for contractors and volunteers by §115.32? (N/A if the agency does not have any full- or part-time medical or mental health care practitioners contracted by or volunteering for the agency.)	yes
115.41 (a)	Screening for risk of victimization and abusiveness	
	Are all inmates assessed during an intake screening for their risk of being sexually abused by other inmates or sexually abusive toward other inmates?	yes
	Are all inmates assessed upon transfer to another facility for their risk of being sexually abused by other inmates or sexually abusive toward other inmates?	yes
115.41 (b)	Screening for risk of victimization and abusiveness	
	Do intake screenings ordinarily take place within 72 hours of arrival at the facility?	yes
115.41 (c)	Screening for risk of victimization and abusiveness	
	Are all PREA screening assessments conducted using an objective screening instrument?	yes
115.41 (d)	Screening for risk of victimization and abusiveness	
	Does the intake screening consider, at a minimum, the following criteria to assess inmates for risk of sexual victimization: (1) Whether the inmate has a mental, physical, or developmental disability?	yes
	Does the intake screening consider, at a minimum, the following criteria to assess inmates for risk of sexual victimization: (2) The age of the inmate?	yes
	Does the intake screening consider, at a minimum, the following criteria to assess inmates for risk of sexual victimization: (3) The physical build of the inmate?	yes
	Does the intake screening consider, at a minimum, the following	yes

	criteria to assess inmates for risk of sexual victimization: (4) Whether the inmate has previously been incarcerated?	
	Does the intake screening consider, at a minimum, the following criteria to assess inmates for risk of sexual victimization: (5) Whether the inmate's criminal history is exclusively nonviolent?	yes
	Does the intake screening consider, at a minimum, the following criteria to assess inmates for risk of sexual victimization: (6) Whether the inmate has prior convictions for sex offenses against an adult or child?	yes
	Does the intake screening consider, at a minimum, the following criteria to assess inmates for risk of sexual victimization: (7) Whether the inmate is or is perceived to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex, or gender nonconforming (the facility affirmatively asks the inmate about his/her sexual orientation and gender identity AND makes a subjective determination based on the screener's perception whether the inmate is gender non-conforming or otherwise may be perceived to be LGBTI)?	yes
	Does the intake screening consider, at a minimum, the following criteria to assess inmates for risk of sexual victimization: (8) Whether the inmate has previously experienced sexual victimization?	yes
	Does the intake screening consider, at a minimum, the following criteria to assess inmates for risk of sexual victimization: (9) The inmate's own perception of vulnerability?	yes
	Does the intake screening consider, at a minimum, the following criteria to assess inmates for risk of sexual victimization: (10) Whether the inmate is detained solely for civil immigration purposes?	yes
115.41 (e)	Screening for risk of victimization and abusiveness	
	In assessing inmates for risk of being sexually abusive, does the initial PREA risk screening consider, as known to the agency: prior acts of sexual abuse?	yes
	In assessing inmates for risk of being sexually abusive, does the initial PREA risk screening consider, as known to the agency: prior convictions for violent offenses?	yes
	In assessing inmates for risk of being sexually abusive, does the initial PREA risk screening consider, as known to the agency: history of prior institutional violence or sexual abuse?	yes
115.41 (f)	Screening for risk of victimization and abusiveness	

	Within a set time period not more than 30 days from the inmate's arrival at the facility, does the facility reassess the inmate's risk of victimization or abusiveness based upon any additional, relevant information received by the facility since the intake screening?	yes
115.41 (g) Screening for risk of victimization and abusiveness		
	Does the facility reassess an inmate's risk level when warranted due to a referral?	yes
	Does the facility reassess an inmate's risk level when warranted due to a request?	yes
	Does the facility reassess an inmate's risk level when warranted due to an incident of sexual abuse?	yes
	Does the facility reassess an inmate's risk level when warranted due to receipt of additional information that bears on the inmate's risk of sexual victimization or abusiveness?	yes
115.41 (h) Screening for risk of victimization and abusiveness		
	Is it the case that inmates are not ever disciplined for refusing to answer, or for not disclosing complete information in response to, questions asked pursuant to paragraphs (d)(1), (d)(7), (d)(8), or (d)(9) of this section?	yes
115.41 (i) Screening for risk of victimization and abusiveness		
	Has the agency implemented appropriate controls on the dissemination within the facility of responses to questions asked pursuant to this standard in order to ensure that sensitive information is not exploited to the inmate's detriment by staff or other inmates?	yes
115.42 (a) Use of screening information		
	Does the agency use information from the risk screening required by § 115.41, with the goal of keeping separate those inmates at high risk of being sexually victimized from those at high risk of being sexually abusive, to inform: Housing Assignments?	yes
	Does the agency use information from the risk screening required by § 115.41, with the goal of keeping separate those inmates at high risk of being sexually victimized from those at high risk of being sexually abusive, to inform: Bed assignments?	yes
	Does the agency use information from the risk screening required by § 115.41, with the goal of keeping separate those inmates at high risk of being sexually victimized from those at high risk of	yes

	being sexually abusive, to inform: Work Assignments?	
	Does the agency use information from the risk screening required by § 115.41, with the goal of keeping separate those inmates at high risk of being sexually victimized from those at high risk of being sexually abusive, to inform: Education Assignments?	yes
	Does the agency use information from the risk screening required by § 115.41, with the goal of keeping separate those inmates at high risk of being sexually victimized from those at high risk of being sexually abusive, to inform: Program Assignments?	yes
115.42 (b)	Use of screening information	
	Does the agency make individualized determinations about how to ensure the safety of each inmate?	yes
115.42 (c)	Use of screening information	
	When deciding whether to assign a transgender or intersex inmate to a facility for male or female inmates, does the agency consider, on a case-by-case basis, whether a placement would ensure the inmate's health and safety, and whether a placement would present management or security problems (NOTE: if an agency by policy or practice assigns inmates to a male or female facility on the basis of anatomy alone, that agency is not in compliance with this standard)?	yes
	When making housing or other program assignments for transgender or intersex inmates, does the agency consider, on a case-by-case basis, whether a placement would ensure the inmate's health and safety, and whether a placement would present management or security problems?	yes
115.42 (d)	Use of screening information	
	Are placement and programming assignments for each transgender or intersex inmate reassessed at least twice each year to review any threats to safety experienced by the inmate?	yes
115.42 (e)	Use of screening information	
	Are each transgender or intersex inmate's own views with respect to his or her own safety given serious consideration when making facility and housing placement decisions and programming assignments?	yes
115.42 (f)	Use of screening information	
	Are transgender and intersex inmates given the opportunity to	yes

	shower separately from other inmates?	
115.42 (g)	Use of screening information	
	Unless placement is in a dedicated facility, unit, or wing established in connection with a consent decree, legal settlement, or legal judgment for the purpose of protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex inmates, does the agency always refrain from placing: lesbian, gay, and bisexual inmates in dedicated facilities, units, or wings solely on the basis of such identification or status? (N/A if the agency has a dedicated facility, unit, or wing solely for the placement of LGBT or I inmates pursuant to a consent decree, legal settlement, or legal judgement.)	yes
	Unless placement is in a dedicated facility, unit, or wing established in connection with a consent decree, legal settlement, or legal judgment for the purpose of protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex inmates, does the agency always refrain from placing: transgender inmates in dedicated facilities, units, or wings solely on the basis of such identification or status? (N/A if the agency has a dedicated facility, unit, or wing solely for the placement of LGBT or I inmates pursuant to a consent decree, legal settlement, or legal judgement.)	yes
	Unless placement is in a dedicated facility, unit, or wing established in connection with a consent decree, legal settlement, or legal judgment for the purpose of protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex inmates, does the agency always refrain from placing: intersex inmates in dedicated facilities, units, or wings solely on the basis of such identification or status? (N/A if the agency has a dedicated facility, unit, or wing solely for the placement of LGBT or I inmates pursuant to a consent decree, legal settlement, or legal judgement.)	yes
115.43 (a)	Protective Custody	
	Does the facility always refrain from placing inmates at high risk for sexual victimization in involuntary segregated housing unless an assessment of all available alternatives has been made, and a determination has been made that there is no available alternative means of separation from likely abusers?	yes
	If a facility cannot conduct such an assessment immediately, does the facility hold the inmate in involuntary segregated housing for less than 24 hours while completing the assessment?	yes
115.43 (b)	Protective Custody	
	Do inmates who are placed in segregated housing because they	yes

	are at high risk of sexual victimization have access to: Programs to the extent possible?	
	Do inmates who are placed in segregated housing because they are at high risk of sexual victimization have access to: Privileges to the extent possible?	yes
	Do inmates who are placed in segregated housing because they are at high risk of sexual victimization have access to: Education to the extent possible?	yes
	Do inmates who are placed in segregated housing because they are at high risk of sexual victimization have access to: Work opportunities to the extent possible?	yes
	If the facility restricts any access to programs, privileges, education, or work opportunities, does the facility document the opportunities that have been limited? (N/A if the facility never restricts access to programs, privileges, education, or work opportunities.)	yes
	If the facility restricts access to programs, privileges, education, or work opportunities, does the facility document the duration of the limitation? (N/A if the facility never restricts access to programs, privileges, education, or work opportunities.)	yes
	If the facility restricts access to programs, privileges, education, or work opportunities, does the facility document the reasons for such limitations? (N/A if the facility never restricts access to programs, privileges, education, or work opportunities.)	yes
115.43 (c)	Protective Custody	
	Does the facility assign inmates at high risk of sexual victimization to involuntary segregated housing only until an alternative means of separation from likely abusers can be arranged?	yes
	Does such an assignment not ordinarily exceed a period of 30 days?	yes
115.43 (d)	Protective Custody	
	If an involuntary segregated housing assignment is made pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, does the facility clearly document: The basis for the facility's concern for the inmate's safety?	yes
	If an involuntary segregated housing assignment is made pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, does the facility clearly document: The reason why no alternative means of separation	yes

	can be arranged?	
115.43 (e)	Protective Custody	
	In the case of each inmate who is placed in involuntary segregation because he/she is at high risk of sexual victimization, does the facility afford a review to determine whether there is a continuing need for separation from the general population EVERY 30 DAYS?	yes
115.51 (a)	Inmate reporting	
	Does the agency provide multiple internal ways for inmates to privately report: Sexual abuse and sexual harassment?	yes
	Does the agency provide multiple internal ways for inmates to privately report: Retaliation by other inmates or staff for reporting sexual abuse and sexual harassment?	yes
	Does the agency provide multiple internal ways for inmates to privately report: Staff neglect or violation of responsibilities that may have contributed to such incidents?	yes
115.51 (b)	Inmate reporting	
	Does the agency also provide at least one way for inmates to report sexual abuse or sexual harassment to a public or private entity or office that is not part of the agency?	yes
	Is that private entity or office able to receive and immediately forward inmate reports of sexual abuse and sexual harassment to agency officials?	yes
	Does that private entity or office allow the inmate to remain anonymous upon request?	yes
	Are inmates detained solely for civil immigration purposes provided information on how to contact relevant consular officials and relevant officials at the Department of Homeland Security? (N/A if the facility never houses inmates detained solely for civil immigration purposes.)	na
115.51 (c)	Inmate reporting	
	Does staff accept reports of sexual abuse and sexual harassment made verbally, in writing, anonymously, and from third parties?	yes
	Does staff promptly document any verbal reports of sexual abuse and sexual harassment?	yes
115.51 (d)	Inmate reporting	

	Does the agency provide a method for staff to privately report sexual abuse and sexual harassment of inmates?	yes
115.52 (a)	Exhaustion of administrative remedies	
	Is the agency exempt from this standard? NOTE: The agency is exempt ONLY if it does not have administrative procedures to address inmate grievances regarding sexual abuse. This does not mean the agency is exempt simply because an inmate does not have to or is not ordinarily expected to submit a grievance to report sexual abuse. This means that as a matter of explicit policy, the agency does not have an administrative remedies process to address sexual abuse.	no
115.52 (b)	Exhaustion of administrative remedies	
	Does the agency permit inmates to submit a grievance regarding an allegation of sexual abuse without any type of time limits? (The agency may apply otherwise-applicable time limits to any portion of a grievance that does not allege an incident of sexual abuse.) (N/A if agency is exempt from this standard.)	yes
	Does the agency always refrain from requiring an inmate to use any informal grievance process, or to otherwise attempt to resolve with staff, an alleged incident of sexual abuse? (N/A if agency is exempt from this standard.)	yes
115.52 (c)	Exhaustion of administrative remedies	
	Does the agency ensure that: An inmate who alleges sexual abuse may submit a grievance without submitting it to a staff member who is the subject of the complaint? (N/A if agency is exempt from this standard.)	yes
	Does the agency ensure that: Such grievance is not referred to a staff member who is the subject of the complaint? (N/A if agency is exempt from this standard.)	yes
115.52 (d)	Exhaustion of administrative remedies	
	Does the agency issue a final agency decision on the merits of any portion of a grievance alleging sexual abuse within 90 days of the initial filing of the grievance? (Computation of the 90-day time period does not include time consumed by inmates in preparing any administrative appeal.) (N/A if agency is exempt from this standard.)	yes
	If the agency claims the maximum allowable extension of time to respond of up to 70 days per 115.52(d)(3) when the normal time period for response is insufficient to make an appropriate decision,	yes

	does the agency notify the inmate in writing of any such extension and provide a date by which a decision will be made? (N/A if agency is exempt from this standard.)	
	At any level of the administrative process, including the final level, if the inmate does not receive a response within the time allotted for reply, including any properly noticed extension, may an inmate consider the absence of a response to be a denial at that level? (N/A if agency is exempt from this standard.)	yes
115.52 (e)	Exhaustion of administrative remedies	
	Are third parties, including fellow inmates, staff members, family members, attorneys, and outside advocates, permitted to assist inmates in filing requests for administrative remedies relating to allegations of sexual abuse? (N/A if agency is exempt from this standard.)	yes
	Are those third parties also permitted to file such requests on behalf of inmates? (If a third party files such a request on behalf of an inmate, the facility may require as a condition of processing the request that the alleged victim agree to have the request filed on his or her behalf, and may also require the alleged victim to personally pursue any subsequent steps in the administrative remedy process.) (N/A if agency is exempt from this standard.)	yes
	If the inmate declines to have the request processed on his or her behalf, does the agency document the inmate's decision? (N/A if agency is exempt from this standard.)	yes
115.52 (f)	Exhaustion of administrative remedies	
	Has the agency established procedures for the filing of an emergency grievance alleging that an inmate is subject to a substantial risk of imminent sexual abuse? (N/A if agency is exempt from this standard.)	yes
	After receiving an emergency grievance alleging an inmate is subject to a substantial risk of imminent sexual abuse, does the agency immediately forward the grievance (or any portion thereof that alleges the substantial risk of imminent sexual abuse) to a level of review at which immediate corrective action may be taken? (N/A if agency is exempt from this standard.).	yes
	After receiving an emergency grievance described above, does the agency provide an initial response within 48 hours? (N/A if agency is exempt from this standard.)	yes
	After receiving an emergency grievance described above, does the agency issue a final agency decision within 5 calendar days?	yes

	(N/A if agency is exempt from this standard.)	
	Does the initial response and final agency decision document the agency's determination whether the inmate is in substantial risk of imminent sexual abuse? (N/A if agency is exempt from this standard.)	yes
	Does the initial response document the agency's action(s) taken in response to the emergency grievance? (N/A if agency is exempt from this standard.)	yes
	Does the agency's final decision document the agency's action(s) taken in response to the emergency grievance? (N/A if agency is exempt from this standard.)	yes
115.52 (g)	Exhaustion of administrative remedies	
	If the agency disciplines an inmate for filing a grievance related to alleged sexual abuse, does it do so ONLY where the agency demonstrates that the inmate filed the grievance in bad faith? (N/A if agency is exempt from this standard.)	yes
115.53 (a)	Inmate access to outside confidential support services	
	Does the facility provide inmates with access to outside victim advocates for emotional support services related to sexual abuse by giving inmates mailing addresses and telephone numbers, including toll-free hotline numbers where available, of local, State, or national victim advocacy or rape crisis organizations?	yes
	Does the facility provide persons detained solely for civil immigration purposes mailing addresses and telephone numbers, including toll-free hotline numbers where available of local, State, or national immigrant services agencies? (N/A if the facility never has persons detained solely for civil immigration purposes.)	na
	Does the facility enable reasonable communication between inmates and these organizations and agencies, in as confidential a manner as possible?	yes
115.53 (b)	Inmate access to outside confidential support services	
	Does the facility inform inmates, prior to giving them access, of the extent to which such communications will be monitored and the extent to which reports of abuse will be forwarded to authorities in accordance with mandatory reporting laws?	yes
115.53 (c)	Inmate access to outside confidential support services	
	Does the agency maintain or attempt to enter into memoranda of	yes

	understanding or other agreements with community service providers that are able to provide inmates with confidential emotional support services related to sexual abuse?	
	Does the agency maintain copies of agreements or documentation showing attempts to enter into such agreements?	yes
115.54 (a)	Third-party reporting	
	Has the agency established a method to receive third-party reports of sexual abuse and sexual harassment?	yes
	Has the agency distributed publicly information on how to report sexual abuse and sexual harassment on behalf of an inmate?	yes
115.61 (a)	Staff and agency reporting duties	
	Does the agency require all staff to report immediately and according to agency policy any knowledge, suspicion, or information regarding an incident of sexual abuse or sexual harassment that occurred in a facility, whether or not it is part of the agency?	yes
	Does the agency require all staff to report immediately and according to agency policy any knowledge, suspicion, or information regarding retaliation against inmates or staff who reported an incident of sexual abuse or sexual harassment?	yes
	Does the agency require all staff to report immediately and according to agency policy any knowledge, suspicion, or information regarding any staff neglect or violation of responsibilities that may have contributed to an incident of sexual abuse or sexual harassment or retaliation?	yes
115.61 (b)	Staff and agency reporting duties	
	Apart from reporting to designated supervisors or officials, does staff always refrain from revealing any information related to a sexual abuse report to anyone other than to the extent necessary, as specified in agency policy, to make treatment, investigation, and other security and management decisions?	yes
115.61 (c)	Staff and agency reporting duties	
	Unless otherwise precluded by Federal, State, or local law, are medical and mental health practitioners required to report sexual abuse pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section?	yes
	Are medical and mental health practitioners required to inform inmates of the practitioner's duty to report, and the limitations of	yes

	confidentiality, at the initiation of services?	
115.61 (d)	Staff and agency reporting duties	
	If the alleged victim is under the age of 18 or considered a vulnerable adult under a State or local vulnerable persons statute, does the agency report the allegation to the designated State or local services agency under applicable mandatory reporting laws?	yes
115.61 (e)	Staff and agency reporting duties	
	Does the facility report all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment, including third-party and anonymous reports, to the facility's designated investigators?	yes
115.62 (a)	Agency protection duties	
	When the agency learns that an inmate is subject to a substantial risk of imminent sexual abuse, does it take immediate action to protect the inmate?	yes
115.63 (a)	Reporting to other confinement facilities	
	Upon receiving an allegation that an inmate was sexually abused while confined at another facility, does the head of the facility that received the allegation notify the head of the facility or appropriate office of the agency where the alleged abuse occurred?	yes
115.63 (b)	Reporting to other confinement facilities	
	Is such notification provided as soon as possible, but no later than 72 hours after receiving the allegation?	yes
115.63 (c)	Reporting to other confinement facilities	
	Does the agency document that it has provided such notification?	yes
115.63 (d)	Reporting to other confinement facilities	
	Does the facility head or agency office that receives such notification ensure that the allegation is investigated in accordance with these standards?	yes
115.64 (a)	Staff first responder duties	
	Upon learning of an allegation that an inmate was sexually abused, is the first security staff member to respond to the report required to: Separate the alleged victim and abuser?	yes
	Upon learning of an allegation that an inmate was sexually abused, is the first security staff member to respond to the report	yes

	required to: Preserve and protect any crime scene until appropriate steps can be taken to collect any evidence?	
	Upon learning of an allegation that an inmate was sexually abused, is the first security staff member to respond to the report required to: Request that the alleged victim not take any actions that could destroy physical evidence, including, as appropriate, washing, brushing teeth, changing clothes, urinating, defecating, smoking, drinking, or eating, if the abuse occurred within a time period that still allows for the collection of physical evidence?	yes
	Upon learning of an allegation that an inmate was sexually abused, is the first security staff member to respond to the report required to: Ensure that the alleged abuser does not take any actions that could destroy physical evidence, including, as appropriate, washing, brushing teeth, changing clothes, urinating, defecating, smoking, drinking, or eating, if the abuse occurred within a time period that still allows for the collection of physical evidence?	yes
115.64 (b)	Staff first responder duties	
	If the first staff responder is not a security staff member, is the responder required to request that the alleged victim not take any actions that could destroy physical evidence, and then notify security staff?	yes
115.65 (a)	Coordinated response	
	Has the facility developed a written institutional plan to coordinate actions among staff first responders, medical and mental health practitioners, investigators, and facility leadership taken in response to an incident of sexual abuse?	yes
115.66 (a)	Preservation of ability to protect inmates from contact with abusers	
	Are both the agency and any other governmental entities responsible for collective bargaining on the agency's behalf prohibited from entering into or renewing any collective bargaining agreement or other agreement that limit the agency's ability to remove alleged staff sexual abusers from contact with any inmates pending the outcome of an investigation or of a determination of whether and to what extent discipline is warranted?	
115.67 (a)	Agency protection against retaliation	
	Has the agency established a policy to protect all inmates and staff who report sexual abuse or sexual harassment or cooperate	yes

	with sexual abuse or sexual harassment investigations from retaliation by other inmates or staff?	
	Has the agency designated which staff members or departments are charged with monitoring retaliation?	yes
115.67 (b)	Agency protection against retaliation	
	Does the agency employ multiple protection measures, such as housing changes or transfers for inmate victims or abusers, removal of alleged staff or inmate abusers from contact with victims, and emotional support services for inmates or staff who fear retaliation for reporting sexual abuse or sexual harassment or for cooperating with investigations?	yes
115.67 (c)	Agency protection against retaliation	
	Except in instances where the agency determines that a report of sexual abuse is unfounded, for at least 90 days following a report of sexual abuse, does the agency: Monitor the conduct and treatment of inmates or staff who reported the sexual abuse to see if there are changes that may suggest possible retaliation by inmates or staff?	yes
	Except in instances where the agency determines that a report of sexual abuse is unfounded, for at least 90 days following a report of sexual abuse, does the agency: Monitor the conduct and treatment of inmates who were reported to have suffered sexual abuse to see if there are changes that may suggest possible retaliation by inmates or staff?	yes
	Except in instances where the agency determines that a report of sexual abuse is unfounded, for at least 90 days following a report of sexual abuse, does the agency: Act promptly to remedy any such retaliation?	yes
	Except in instances where the agency determines that a report of sexual abuse is unfounded, for at least 90 days following a report of sexual abuse, does the agency: Monitor any inmate disciplinary reports?	yes
	Except in instances where the agency determines that a report of sexual abuse is unfounded, for at least 90 days following a report of sexual abuse, does the agency: Monitor inmate housing changes?	yes
	Except in instances where the agency determines that a report of sexual abuse is unfounded, for at least 90 days following a report of sexual abuse, does the agency: Monitor inmate program changes?	yes

	Except in instances where the agency determines that a report of sexual abuse is unfounded, for at least 90 days following a report of sexual abuse, does the agency: Monitor negative performance reviews of staff?	yes
	Except in instances where the agency determines that a report of sexual abuse is unfounded, for at least 90 days following a report of sexual abuse, does the agency: Monitor reassignments of staff?	yes
	Does the agency continue such monitoring beyond 90 days if the initial monitoring indicates a continuing need?	yes
115.67 (d)	Agency protection against retaliation	
	In the case of inmates, does such monitoring also include periodic status checks?	yes
115.67 (e)	Agency protection against retaliation	
	If any other individual who cooperates with an investigation expresses a fear of retaliation, does the agency take appropriate measures to protect that individual against retaliation?	yes
115.68 (a)	Post-allegation protective custody	
	Is any and all use of segregated housing to protect an inmate who is alleged to have suffered sexual abuse subject to the requirements of § 115.43?	yes
115.71 (a)	Criminal and administrative agency investigations	
	When the agency conducts its own investigations into allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment, does it do so promptly, thoroughly, and objectively? (N/A if the agency/facility is not responsible for conducting any form of criminal OR administrative sexual abuse investigations. See 115.21(a).)	yes
	Does the agency conduct such investigations for all allegations, including third party and anonymous reports? (N/A if the agency/facility is not responsible for conducting any form of criminal OR administrative sexual abuse investigations. See 115.21(a).)	yes
115.71 (b)	Criminal and administrative agency investigations	
	Where sexual abuse is alleged, does the agency use investigators who have received specialized training in sexual abuse investigations as required by 115.34?	yes
115.71 (c)	Criminal and administrative agency investigations	
	Do investigators gather and preserve direct and circumstantial	yes

	evidence, including any available physical and DNA evidence and any available electronic monitoring data?	
	Do investigators interview alleged victims, suspected perpetrators, and witnesses?	yes
	Do investigators review prior reports and complaints of sexual abuse involving the suspected perpetrator?	yes
115.71 (d)	Criminal and administrative agency investigations	
	When the quality of evidence appears to support criminal prosecution, does the agency conduct compelled interviews only after consulting with prosecutors as to whether compelled interviews may be an obstacle for subsequent criminal prosecution?	yes
115.71 (e)	Criminal and administrative agency investigations	
	Do agency investigators assess the credibility of an alleged victim, suspect, or witness on an individual basis and not on the basis of that individual's status as inmate or staff?	yes
	Does the agency investigate allegations of sexual abuse without requiring an inmate who alleges sexual abuse to submit to a polygraph examination or other truth-telling device as a condition for proceeding?	yes
115.71 (f)	Criminal and administrative agency investigations	
	Do administrative investigations include an effort to determine whether staff actions or failures to act contributed to the abuse?	yes
	Are administrative investigations documented in written reports that include a description of the physical evidence and testimonial evidence, the reasoning behind credibility assessments, and investigative facts and findings?	yes
115.71 (g)	Criminal and administrative agency investigations	
	Are criminal investigations documented in a written report that contains a thorough description of the physical, testimonial, and documentary evidence and attaches copies of all documentary evidence where feasible?	yes
115.71 (h)	Criminal and administrative agency investigations	
	Are all substantiated allegations of conduct that appears to be criminal referred for prosecution?	yes
115.71 (i)	Criminal and administrative agency investigations	

	Does the agency retain all written reports referenced in 115.71(f) and (g) for as long as the alleged abuser is incarcerated or employed by the agency, plus five years?	yes
115.71 (j)	Criminal and administrative agency investigations	
	Does the agency ensure that the departure of an alleged abuser or victim from the employment or control of the agency does not provide a basis for terminating an investigation?	yes
115.71 (l)	Criminal and administrative agency investigations	
	When an outside entity investigates sexual abuse, does the facility cooperate with outside investigators and endeavor to remain informed about the progress of the investigation? (N/A if an outside agency does not conduct administrative or criminal sexual abuse investigations. See 115.21(a).)	yes
115.72 (a)	Evidentiary standard for administrative investigations	
	Is it true that the agency does not impose a standard higher than a preponderance of the evidence in determining whether allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment are substantiated?	yes
115.73 (a)	Reporting to inmates	
	Following an investigation into an inmate's allegation that he or she suffered sexual abuse in an agency facility, does the agency inform the inmate as to whether the allegation has been determined to be substantiated, unsubstantiated, or unfounded?	yes
115.73 (b)	Reporting to inmates	
	If the agency did not conduct the investigation into an inmate's allegation of sexual abuse in an agency facility, does the agency request the relevant information from the investigative agency in order to inform the inmate? (N/A if the agency/facility is responsible for conducting administrative and criminal investigations.)	yes
115.73 (c)	Reporting to inmates	
	Following an inmate's allegation that a staff member has committed sexual abuse against the resident, unless the agency has determined that the allegation is unfounded, or unless the inmate has been released from custody, does the agency subsequently inform the resident whenever: The staff member is no longer posted within the inmate's unit?	yes
	Following an inmate's allegation that a staff member has	yes

	committed sexual abuse against the resident, unless the agency has determined that the allegation is unfounded, or unless the resident has been released from custody, does the agency subsequently inform the resident whenever: The staff member is no longer employed at the facility?	
	Following an inmate's allegation that a staff member has committed sexual abuse against the resident, unless the agency has determined that the allegation is unfounded, or unless the resident has been released from custody, does the agency subsequently inform the resident whenever: The agency learns that the staff member has been indicted on a charge related to sexual abuse in the facility?	yes
	Following an inmate's allegation that a staff member has committed sexual abuse against the resident, unless the agency has determined that the allegation is unfounded, or unless the resident has been released from custody, does the agency subsequently inform the resident whenever: The agency learns that the staff member has been convicted on a charge related to sexual abuse within the facility?	yes
115.73 (d) Reporting to inmates		
	Following an inmate's allegation that he or she has been sexually abused by another inmate, does the agency subsequently inform the alleged victim whenever: The agency learns that the alleged abuser has been indicted on a charge related to sexual abuse within the facility?	yes
	Following an inmate's allegation that he or she has been sexually abused by another inmate, does the agency subsequently inform the alleged victim whenever: The agency learns that the alleged abuser has been convicted on a charge related to sexual abuse within the facility?	yes
115.73 (e) Reporting to inmates		
	Does the agency document all such notifications or attempted notifications?	yes
115.76 (a) Disciplinary sanctions for staff		
	Are staff subject to disciplinary sanctions up to and including termination for violating agency sexual abuse or sexual harassment policies?	yes
115.76 (b) Disciplinary sanctions for staff		
	Is termination the presumptive disciplinary sanction for staff who	yes

	have engaged in sexual abuse?	
115.76 (c)	Disciplinary sanctions for staff	
	Are disciplinary sanctions for violations of agency policies relating to sexual abuse or sexual harassment (other than actually engaging in sexual abuse) commensurate with the nature and circumstances of the acts committed, the staff member's disciplinary history, and the sanctions imposed for comparable offenses by other staff with similar histories?	yes
115.76 (d)	Disciplinary sanctions for staff	
	Are all terminations for violations of agency sexual abuse or sexual harassment policies, or resignations by staff who would have been terminated if not for their resignation, reported to: Law enforcement agencies(unless the activity was clearly not criminal)?	yes
	Are all terminations for violations of agency sexual abuse or sexual harassment policies, or resignations by staff who would have been terminated if not for their resignation, reported to: Relevant licensing bodies?	yes
115.77 (a)	Corrective action for contractors and volunteers	
	Is any contractor or volunteer who engages in sexual abuse prohibited from contact with inmates?	yes
	Is any contractor or volunteer who engages in sexual abuse reported to: Law enforcement agencies (unless the activity was clearly not criminal)?	yes
	Is any contractor or volunteer who engages in sexual abuse reported to: Relevant licensing bodies?	yes
115.77 (b)	Corrective action for contractors and volunteers	
	In the case of any other violation of agency sexual abuse or sexual harassment policies by a contractor or volunteer, does the facility take appropriate remedial measures, and consider whether to prohibit further contact with inmates?	yes
115.78 (a)	Disciplinary sanctions for inmates	
	Following an administrative finding that an inmate engaged in inmate-on-inmate sexual abuse, or following a criminal finding of guilt for inmate-on-inmate sexual abuse, are inmates subject to disciplinary sanctions pursuant to a formal disciplinary process?	yes
115.78 (b)	Disciplinary sanctions for inmates	

	Are sanctions commensurate with the nature and circumstances of the abuse committed, the inmate's disciplinary history, and the sanctions imposed for comparable offenses by other inmates with similar histories?	yes
115.78 (c)	Disciplinary sanctions for inmates	
	When determining what types of sanction, if any, should be imposed, does the disciplinary process consider whether an inmate's mental disabilities or mental illness contributed to his or her behavior?	yes
115.78 (d)	Disciplinary sanctions for inmates	
	If the facility offers therapy, counseling, or other interventions designed to address and correct underlying reasons or motivations for the abuse, does the facility consider whether to require the offending inmate to participate in such interventions as a condition of access to programming and other benefits?	yes
115.78 (e)	Disciplinary sanctions for inmates	
	Does the agency discipline an inmate for sexual contact with staff only upon a finding that the staff member did not consent to such contact?	yes
115.78 (f)	Disciplinary sanctions for inmates	
	For the purpose of disciplinary action does a report of sexual abuse made in good faith based upon a reasonable belief that the alleged conduct occurred NOT constitute falsely reporting an incident or lying, even if an investigation does not establish evidence sufficient to substantiate the allegation?	yes
115.78 (g)	Disciplinary sanctions for inmates	
	If the agency prohibits all sexual activity between inmates, does the agency always refrain from considering non-coercive sexual activity between inmates to be sexual abuse? (N/A if the agency does not prohibit all sexual activity between inmates.)	yes
115.81 (a)	Medical and mental health screenings; history of sexual abuse	
	If the screening pursuant to § 115.41 indicates that a prison inmate has experienced prior sexual victimization, whether it occurred in an institutional setting or in the community, do staff ensure that the inmate is offered a follow-up meeting with a medical or mental health practitioner within 14 days of the intake screening? (N/A if the facility is not a prison).	yes
115.81 (b)	Medical and mental health screenings; history of sexual abuse	

	If the screening pursuant to § 115.41 indicates that a prison inmate has previously perpetrated sexual abuse, whether it occurred in an institutional setting or in the community, do staff ensure that the inmate is offered a follow-up meeting with a mental health practitioner within 14 days of the intake screening? (N/A if the facility is not a prison.)	yes
115.81 (c)	Medical and mental health screenings; history of sexual abuse	
	If the screening pursuant to § 115.41 indicates that a jail inmate has experienced prior sexual victimization, whether it occurred in an institutional setting or in the community, do staff ensure that the inmate is offered a follow-up meeting with a medical or mental health practitioner within 14 days of the intake screening? (N/A if the facility is not a jail).	yes
115.81 (d)	Medical and mental health screenings; history of sexual abuse	
	Is any information related to sexual victimization or abusiveness that occurred in an institutional setting strictly limited to medical and mental health practitioners and other staff as necessary to inform treatment plans and security management decisions, including housing, bed, work, education, and program assignments, or as otherwise required by Federal, State, or local law?	yes
115.81 (e)	Medical and mental health screenings; history of sexual abuse	
	Do medical and mental health practitioners obtain informed consent from inmates before reporting information about prior sexual victimization that did not occur in an institutional setting, unless the inmate is under the age of 18?	yes
115.82 (a)	Access to emergency medical and mental health services	
	Do inmate victims of sexual abuse receive timely, unimpeded access to emergency medical treatment and crisis intervention services, the nature and scope of which are determined by medical and mental health practitioners according to their professional judgment?	yes
115.82 (b)	Access to emergency medical and mental health services	
	If no qualified medical or mental health practitioners are on duty at the time a report of recent sexual abuse is made, do security staff first responders take preliminary steps to protect the victim pursuant to § 115.62?	yes
	Do security staff first responders immediately notify the appropriate medical and mental health practitioners?	yes

115.82 (c)	Access to emergency medical and mental health services	
	Are inmate victims of sexual abuse offered timely information about and timely access to emergency contraception and sexually transmitted infections prophylaxis, in accordance with professionally accepted standards of care, where medically appropriate?	yes
115.82 (d)	Access to emergency medical and mental health services	
	Are treatment services provided to the victim without financial cost and regardless of whether the victim names the abuser or cooperates with any investigation arising out of the incident?	yes
115.83 (a)	Ongoing medical and mental health care for sexual abuse victims and abusers	
	Does the facility offer medical and mental health evaluation and, as appropriate, treatment to all inmates who have been victimized by sexual abuse in any prison, jail, lockup, or juvenile facility?	yes
115.83 (b)	Ongoing medical and mental health care for sexual abuse victims and abusers	
	Does the evaluation and treatment of such victims include, as appropriate, follow-up services, treatment plans, and, when necessary, referrals for continued care following their transfer to, or placement in, other facilities, or their release from custody?	yes
115.83 (c)	Ongoing medical and mental health care for sexual abuse victims and abusers	
	Does the facility provide such victims with medical and mental health services consistent with the community level of care?	yes
115.83 (d)	Ongoing medical and mental health care for sexual abuse victims and abusers	
	Are inmate victims of sexually abusive vaginal penetration while incarcerated offered pregnancy tests? (N/A if "all male" facility. Note: in "all male" facilities there may be inmates who identify as transgender men who may have female genitalia. Auditors should be sure to know whether such individuals may be in the population and whether this provision may apply in specific circumstances.)	na
115.83 (e)	Ongoing medical and mental health care for sexual abuse victims and abusers	
	If pregnancy results from the conduct described in paragraph §	na

	115.83(d), do such victims receive timely and comprehensive information about and timely access to all lawful pregnancy-related medical services? (N/A if "all male" facility. Note: in "all male" facilities there may be inmates who identify as transgender men who may have female genitalia. Auditors should be sure to know whether such individuals may be in the population and whether this provision may apply in specific circumstances.)	
115.83 (f)	Ongoing medical and mental health care for sexual abuse victims and abusers	
	Are inmate victims of sexual abuse while incarcerated offered tests for sexually transmitted infections as medically appropriate?	yes
115.83 (g)	Ongoing medical and mental health care for sexual abuse victims and abusers	
	Are treatment services provided to the victim without financial cost and regardless of whether the victim names the abuser or cooperates with any investigation arising out of the incident?	yes
115.83 (h)	Ongoing medical and mental health care for sexual abuse victims and abusers	
	If the facility is a prison, does it attempt to conduct a mental health evaluation of all known inmate-on-inmate abusers within 60 days of learning of such abuse history and offer treatment when deemed appropriate by mental health practitioners? (NA if the facility is a jail.)	yes
115.86 (a)	Sexual abuse incident reviews	
	Does the facility conduct a sexual abuse incident review at the conclusion of every sexual abuse investigation, including where the allegation has not been substantiated, unless the allegation has been determined to be unfounded?	yes
115.86 (b)	Sexual abuse incident reviews	
	Does such review ordinarily occur within 30 days of the conclusion of the investigation?	yes
115.86 (c)	Sexual abuse incident reviews	
	Does the review team include upper-level management officials, with input from line supervisors, investigators, and medical or mental health practitioners?	yes
115.86 (d)	Sexual abuse incident reviews	

	Does the review team: Consider whether the allegation or investigation indicates a need to change policy or practice to better prevent, detect, or respond to sexual abuse?	yes
	Does the review team: Consider whether the incident or allegation was motivated by race; ethnicity; gender identity; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex identification, status, or perceived status; gang affiliation; or other group dynamics at the facility?	yes
	Does the review team: Examine the area in the facility where the incident allegedly occurred to assess whether physical barriers in the area may enable abuse?	yes
	Does the review team: Assess the adequacy of staffing levels in that area during different shifts?	yes
	Does the review team: Assess whether monitoring technology should be deployed or augmented to supplement supervision by staff?	yes
	Does the review team: Prepare a report of its findings, including but not necessarily limited to determinations made pursuant to §§ 115.86(d)(1)-(d)(5), and any recommendations for improvement and submit such report to the facility head and PREA compliance manager?	yes
115.86 (e)	Sexual abuse incident reviews	
	Does the facility implement the recommendations for improvement, or document its reasons for not doing so?	yes
115.401 (h)	Frequency and scope of audits	
	Did the auditor have access to, and the ability to observe, all areas of the audited facility?	yes
115.401 (i)	Frequency and scope of audits	
	Was the auditor permitted to request and receive copies of any relevant documents (including electronically stored information)?	yes
115.401 (m)	Frequency and scope of audits	
	Was the auditor permitted to conduct private interviews with inmates, residents, and detainees?	yes

115.401 (n)	Frequency and scope of audits	
	Were inmates permitted to send confidential information or correspondence to the auditor in the same manner as if they were communicating with legal counsel?	yes

PREA Agency Audit Report: Final

Name of Agency: Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Facility Type: Prison / Jail

Date Interim Report Submitted: NA

Date Final Report Submitted: 09/15/2023

Auditor Certification	
The contents of this report are accurate to the best of my knowledge.	<input type="checkbox"/>
No conflict of interest exists with respect to my ability to conduct an audit of the agency under review.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have not included in the final report any personally identifiable information (PII) about any inmate/resident/detainee or staff member, except where the names of administrative personnel are specifically requested in the report template.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Auditor Full Name as Signed: Marc Coudriet	Date of Signature: 09/15/2023

AUDITOR INFORMATION	
Auditor name:	Coudriet, Marc
Email:	usmc58312215@outlook.com
Start Date of On-Site Audit:	
End Date of On-Site Audit:	

AGENCY INFORMATION	
Name of agency:	Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Governing authority or parent agency (if applicable):	
Physical Address:	861 Interstate 45, Huntsville, Texas - 77320
Mailing Address:	PO Box 99, Huntsville, Texas - 77340
Telephone number:	8005350283

Agency Chief Executive Officer Information:	
Name:	Bryan Collier
Email Address:	bryan.collier@tdcj.texas.gov
Telephone Number:	936-437-2101

Agency-Wide PREA Coordinator Information			
Name:	Cassandra McGilbra	Email Address:	cassandra.mcgilbra@tdcj.texas.gov

Agency AUDIT FINDINGS

Summary of Audit Findings

The OAS automatically populates the number and list of Standards exceeded, the number of Standards met, and the number and list of Standards not met.

Auditor Note: In general, no standards should be found to be "Not Applicable" or "NA." A compliance determination must be made for each standard. In rare instances where an auditor determines that a standard is not applicable, the auditor should select "Meets Standard" and include a comprehensive discussion as to why the standard is not applicable to the facility being audited.

Number of standards exceeded:

2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 115.11 - Zero tolerance of sexual abuse and sexual harassment; PREA coordinator • 115.12 - Contracting with other entities for the confinement of inmates
---	--

Number of standards met:

8

Number of standards not met:

0

Standards	
Auditor Overall Determination Definitions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceeds Standard (Substantially exceeds requirement of standard) • Meets Standard (substantial compliance; complies in all material ways with the stand for the relevant review period) • Does Not Meet Standard (requires corrective actions) 	
Auditor Discussion Instructions	
<p>Auditor discussion, including the evidence relied upon in making the compliance or non-compliance determination, the auditor’s analysis and reasoning, and the auditor’s conclusions. This discussion must also include corrective action recommendations where the facility does not meet standard. These recommendations must be included in the Final Report, accompanied by information on specific corrective actions taken by the facility.</p>	

115.11	Zero tolerance of sexual abuse and sexual harassment; PREA coordinator
	Auditor Overall Determination: Exceeds Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>115.11(a)</p> <p>POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:</p> <p>Pre-Audit Questionnaire.</p> <p>TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan.</p> <p>Agency Zero Tolerance statement.</p> <p>Organizational charts, interviews, and memos.</p> <p>FINDINGS:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan, address the requirements of this provision. The agency mandates a zero-tolerance policy towards all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment and outlines the agency's strategies on preventing, detecting, and responding to such conduct. Agency policies addressed "Preventing"</p>

sexual abuse and sexual harassment through the designation of a PREA Coordinator and PREA Compliance Manager, Criminal History Background Checks (Staff, Contractors, and Volunteers, as applicable), Training (Staff, Volunteers, and Contractors), Staffing, Intake Screening, Classification, Inmate Education, Posting of Signage (PREA Posters, etc....), and Contract Monitoring. The policies addressed "Detecting" sexual abuse and sexual harassment through Training (Staff, Volunteers, and Contractors), and Intake Screening.

The policies addressed "Responding" to allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment through Reporting, Investigations, Victim Services, Medical and Mental Health Services, Disciplinary Sanctions for Staff (including notification of licensing agencies), Incident Review Teams, and Data Collections and Analysis.

The Auditor noted the Inmate Handbook, PREA Posters, and PREA Brochure do address sexual abuse by another Inmate, and the Inmate Handbook does address sanctions for Inmates when involved in such conduct. Based on staff interviews it was noted TDCJ staff closely monitor for Inmate-on-Inmate sexual misconduct in accordance with PREA, allegations are reported and investigated, and inmates are held accountable.

115.11(b)

POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:

Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan.

Agency's organizational chart.

INTERVIEWS:

PREA Coordinator.

FINDINGS:

Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan., addresses the position of the PREA Coordinator, which outlines the roles and responsibilities of the position and calls for the position being allowed enough time and authority to develop, implement, and oversee Agency efforts to comply with the PREA standards in each facility.

The agency's organizational chart reflects that the PREA Coordinator position is an upper-level position and is agency-wide. The PREA Coordinator position reports to the Texas Board of Criminal Justice.

The PREA Coordinator was interviewed and reported having enough time to focus on the PREA standards from and the freedom to divert responsibilities to other staff as needed to focus on the audit.

A review of the agency policy, agency's organization chart, and based on the interview, the designated agency's PREA Coordinator, the Auditor determined the agency demonstrates it meets the requirements of this provision of this standard.

	<p>115.11(c)</p> <p>POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:</p> <p>Agency Policy ED 03.03.</p> <p>Agency's organizational chart.</p> <p>INTERVIEWS:</p> <p>PREA Coordinator.</p> <p>FINDINGS:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan., addresses the requirements for this provision. The agency's organizational chart reflects that the Unit PREA Compliance Manager's position reports to their facility Warden who reports directly to their assigned Regional Director. The PREA Coordinator oversees 6 Regional coordinators who monitor and support prison operations, including the agency's PREA Program. There are 125 Unit PREA Mangers and 6 regional coordinators who are responsible for reporting PREA related information to the Agency PREA Coordinator. A review of the agency policy, agency's organization chart, and based on the interview with the PREA Coordinator, the Auditor determined the agency demonstrates it exceeds the requirements of this provision of this standard.</p>
--	---

115.12	Contracting with other entities for the confinement of inmates
	Auditor Overall Determination: Exceeds Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>115.12(a)</p> <p>POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan.</p> <p>FINDINGS:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan, addresses this provision. The agency reported there were a total of twenty-seven contracts for thirty-two facilities for the confinement of inmates that the agency had entered or renewed with private entities or other government agencies.</p> <p>A review of all the contracts reflected the entity's obligation to adopt and comply with the PREA standards. A review of the agency policy and the (27) contracts reflected all the contracts met the required entity's obligation to adopt and comply with the PREA</p>

	<p>standards.</p> <p>115.12(b)</p> <p>POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan.</p> <p>INTERVIEWS:</p> <p>Contract Administrator.</p> <p>FINDINGS:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan, addresses this provision. The agency reported the (27) agency-wide contracts require the agency to monitor the contractor's compliance with the PREA standards.</p> <p>The agency's Contract Administrator was interviewed and reported he is required to maintain regular contact with every inmate placed in a contracting facility. If there are concerns, agency protocol requires the inmate be removed from the facility and the facility allows time to make corrective action and address the concerns.</p> <p>Corrective actions are addressed before the facility is reconsidered. Notification would also be made to law enforcement.</p> <p>The Contract Administrator stated there are contract monitors on-site that provide continuous monitoring of the contracted facility. The Contract Administrator has the authority to perform an administrative review of any sign of suspected non-compliance. A finding of non-compliance during the administrative review could result in fines, corrective action, contract termination and referral for criminal charges, if applicable.</p> <p>The Contract Administrator annually collects credentialing documentation for each facility: facility license; staff licenses or certifications; daily schedule; and monitoring reports or the licensing agency's website regarding the facility's status; and tours the facility.</p> <p>New facilities being considered for contracting purposes follow a vetting process, including reference checks with other counties, with all information being presented to the agency's leadership for review and approval. All placements involve the input of the inmate being considered for placement in the facility. The Contract Administrator reported PREA compliance results are completed and that the PREA Coordinator has implemented a tracking process for this. A review of the agency policy, agency contracts and an interview with the contract administrator and PREA Coordinator demonstrated the agency exceed the requirements of this standard.</p>
--	--

115.17	Hiring and promotion decisions
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard

Auditor Discussion

115.17(a)

POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:

Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan.

List of background checks on current employees.

FINDINGS:

Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan. and a list of background checks on current employees, address this provision. Agency policy defines staff to include volunteer or contracted program services staff. The agency contractors and volunteers are all subjected to a criminal background check, including a background check. Criminal background checks for new hires and contractors are completed by HR Headquarters in Huntsville, Texas. Sampled HR files indicated timely criminal background checks. All files demonstrating the three required questions in this provision are included and staff affirmed by signing the form.

Recruitment files are handled and processed in HR Headquarters in Huntsville, Texas. Hiring occurs at multiple direct hire and academy sites throughout the state. The agency policies require job applicants to have background checks completed looking at any issue of prior sexual misconduct. All contractors are screened by using the same process.

The agency reported 9704 (100%) new employees/applicants background checks were made and 8 (100%) contractor background checks were completed in the past 12 months. Documentation and files were reviewed by the Auditor to confirm the process. Agency policies also require an annual re-check of all employees and contractual re-checks for contractors.

The agency policy does indicate that any employee/contractor misconduct or false reporting is subject to the possibility of termination of employment. The Administrative (Human Resources) Staff also indicated that the agency would respond to any request for information from an institutional employer seeking information on a former employee.

115.17(b)

POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:

Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan.

INTERVIEWS:

Administrative (Human Resources) Staff.

FINDINGS:

Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan., address this provision. The Auditor interviewed the Administrative (Human Resources) Staff. Staff reported, the agency has incorporated and implemented the "Affirmative Duty to Disclose," which all staff were required to affirm and sign. The form provides for a "material omissions" clause.

115.17(c)

POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:

Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan.

INTERVIEWS:

Administrative (Human Resources) Staff.

FINDINGS:

Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan, address this provision. The agency policy requires job applicants to have background checks completed looking at any issue of prior sexual misconduct. The background checks are completed prior to any inmate contact. All contractors are screened by using the same process. The Auditor interviewed the Administrative (Human Resources) Staff.

Criminal background checks for new hires and contractors are completed by HR Headquarters in Huntsville, Texas. Additionally, reference checks are conducted by contacting prior institutional employers.

115.17(d)

POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:

Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan.

INTERVIEWS:

The Auditor interviewed the Administrative (Human Resources) Staff.

FINDINGS:

Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan., addresses the elements of this provision. Agency policy defines staff to include volunteer or contracted program services staff. All staff are also subjected to a criminal history background check.

Criminal background checks for new hires and contractors are completed by HR Headquarters in Huntsville, Texas. Staff reported criminal background records checks are conducted on all new hires and contractors.

115.17(e)

POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:

Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan. and supporting documentation.

INTERVIEWS:

Administrative (Human Resources) Staff.

FINDINGS:

Agency Policy addresses this provision. Agency policy requires criminal history checks will be conducted annually for staff and at least every two years for contractors and volunteers. All staff are provided the opportunity to self-disclose their arrest or history prior to the agency completing the background check. Criminal background checks for new hires and contractors are completed by HR Headquarters in Huntsville, Texas.

The Auditor interviewed the Administrative (Human Resources) Staff. Staff reported, criminal background records checks are subsequently conducted on all new hires and annually for staff and at least every two years for contractors and volunteers. A review of the agency policy and HR files, and staff interview indicate the agency has conducted criminal background records checks on all staff annually and meets the provision of this standard.

115.17(f)

POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:

Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan.

HR Files.

INTERVIEWS:

Administrative (Human Resources) Staff.

FINDINGS:

Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan, addresses this provision. The application process includes the "Affirmative Duty to Disclose" form, for new hires, volunteers and contractors, and a review of the HR files indicated this process was being implemented. All staff HR files reviewed indicated the forms had been signed in accordance with policy.

A review of agency policy and HR files, and staff interview, indicate the practice is in place and meets the requirements of this provision.

115.17(g)

POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:

Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan.

FINDINGS:

	<p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan., address this provision. Agency policy defines staff to include volunteer or contracted program services staff.</p> <p>115.17(h)</p> <p>POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan.</p> <p>INTERVIEWS:</p> <p>Administrative (Human Resources) Staff.</p> <p>FINDINGS:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan, address this provision. The Auditor interviewed the Administrative (Human Resources) Staff.</p> <p>Staff reported if the new potential employer secures a release form from the former employee, then the information will be released. Staff reported without the release form, HR will not disclose the information.</p>
--	---

115.18 Upgrades to facilities and technologies	
	<p>Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard</p> <p>Auditor Discussion</p> <p>115.18(a)</p> <p>INTERVIEWS:</p> <p>Interviews with the Agency Head.</p> <p>FINDINGS:</p> <p>Interviews revealed the agency and Unit Warden’s would consider the processes in place, priorities, inmate safety, future construction plans, mission support team and comprehensive monitoring prior to making any structural or technological changes in a facility. Additionally, TDCJ had made enhancements in response to a staffing analysis, new comprehensive video monitoring and tablets have been issued to 95% of the inmate population in TDCJ facilities. Future enhancement are planned when funding and resources are made available.</p> <p>115.18(b)</p> <p>INTERVIEWS:</p> <p>Interviews with the Agency Head.</p>

	<p>FINDINGS:</p> <p>Interviews revealed the agency and facility Warden would consider how such technology may enhance the agency’s ability to protect inmates from sexual abuse prior to implementing the video enhancements/upgrades.</p>
--	---

115.42	Use of screening information
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>115.42(a)</p> <p>POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:</p> <p>Agency Policy and the PREA Screen Tool.</p> <p>INTERVIEWS:</p> <p>PREA Compliance Manager.</p> <p>FINDINGS:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan, address this provision. The information obtained in the inmate screening process is used to make individualized determinations to ensure the inmates safety. This information is used to make decisions to place each inmate in appropriate housing, work, and program assignments. The placement decisions are made by a classification committee. Staff interviewed reported information secured through the screening process is used to determine the need for additional medical or mental health follow-up, and to make classification decisions based on risk factors.</p> <p>115.42(b)</p> <p>POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan.</p> <p>INTERVIEWS:</p> <p>PREA Coordinator.</p> <p>FINDINGS:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan, addresses this provision. Unit Safe Prisons Staff initiate the risk screening information, the information moves through classification. This information is only access by staff who has the needs to know. This information moves by a password protected automated system called Safe Prisons/</p>

	<p>PREA Automated Network System (SPPANS). The welfare of the inmate is always a high consideration. Medical and mental health staff conduct daily visits for any inmates placed in restrictive housing for PREA risk factors, which is only used as a last resort.</p> <p>115.42(c)</p> <p>POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan.</p> <p>INTERVIEWS:</p> <p>PREA Coordinator.</p> <p>FINDINGS:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan, addresses this provision.</p> <p>Staff interviewed reported the facility does not have special housing units designated for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex inmates. All housing, program and work assignments are made on a case-by-case basis.</p>
--	--

115.66	Preservation of ability to protect inmates from contact with abusers
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>115.66(a)</p> <p>POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan.</p> <p>INTERVIEWS:</p> <p>Agency Head</p> <p>FINDINGS:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan, address this provision. TDCJ does not engage in collective bargaining with staff.</p>

115.87	Data collection
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard

Auditor Discussion

115.87(a and c)

POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:

Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan.

FINDINGS:

Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan., addresses this provision.

A review of the reporting documentation reflected a comprehensive tracking system designed to maintain various elements for the required data for sexual abuse allegations as well as sexual harassment allegations.

One of the functions of the PREA Compliance Manager is to maintain this information. The tracking system contains information on all allegations of abuse, neglect and exploitation, and all serious incidents.

115.87(b)

POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:

Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan.

FINDINGS:

Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan, addresses this provision. A review of the facility tracking information reflected a comprehensive system designed to maintain various elements for the required data for sexual abuse and sexual harassment allegations.

115.87(d)

Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan.

FINDINGS:

Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan, addresses this provision. A review of the agency website reflects the comprehensive report is published and available to the public for all serious incidents to include sexual abuse and sexual harassment allegations.

115.87(e)

POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:

Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan.

FINDINGS:

Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan, addresses this provision.

	<p>115.87(f)</p> <p>POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan.</p> <p>FINDINGS:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan, addresses this provision.</p>
--	--

115.88	Data review for corrective action
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>115.88(a)</p> <p>POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan.</p> <p>Annual report.</p> <p>INTERVIEWS:</p> <p>PREA Coordinator.</p> <p>FINDINGS:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan, addresses this provision. A review of the annual report reflects all the elements required by this provision.</p> <p>Staff interviewed reported in detail the process followed when reviewing the data, identifying problem areas and corrective action, and preparing the annual report.</p> <p>115.88(b)</p> <p>POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan.</p> <p>FINDINGS:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan, addresses this provision.</p> <p>115.88(c)</p> <p>POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan.</p>

	<p>Annual report.</p> <p>INTERVIEWS:</p> <p>PREA Coordinator.</p> <p>FINDINGS:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan, addresses this provision. Staff interviewed reported the Annual report is reviewed and approved by the Agency Senior Staff and posted on the agency website.</p> <p>115.88(d)</p> <p>POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan.</p> <p>INTERVIEWS:</p> <p>PREA Coordinator.</p> <p>FINDINGS:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan, addresses this provision. Staff interviewed reported all personal identifying information and personal health information is redacted. The reports would reflect only basic demographic information.</p>
--	---

115.89	Data storage, publication, and destruction
	<p>Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard</p> <hr/> <p>Auditor Discussion</p> <p>115.89(a)</p> <p>POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan.</p> <p>INTERVIEWS:</p> <p>PREA Coordinator.</p> <p>FINDINGS:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan, addresses this provision. Staff interviewed reported access to any data is restricted to the Agency Senior Staff for operational use and is password protected.</p>

	<p>115.89(b)</p> <p>POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan.</p> <p>Aggregated data on website.</p> <p>FINDINGS:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan, addresses this provision. The data posted on the agency website includes agency data from previous years to present.</p> <p>115.89(c)</p> <p>POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan.</p> <p>Aggregated data on agency website.</p> <p>FINDINGS:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan, addresses this provision. The data posted on the agency website has all personal identifiers redacted.</p> <p>115.89(d)</p> <p>POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan.</p> <p>Aggregated data on agency website.</p> <p>FINDINGS:</p> <p>Agency Policies and TDCJ Safe Prisons/PREA Plan, addresses this provision. The data and records collected are to be retained in accordance with state and agency retention requirements.</p>
--	---

115.401	Frequency and scope of audits
	Auditor Overall Determination:
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>115.401(a)</p> <p>POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:</p> <p>Aggregated data on website.</p>

FINDINGS:

The agency ensured that each facility operated by the agency, or by a private organization on behalf of the agency, was audited at least once.

115.401(b)

POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:

Aggregated data on website.

FINDINGS:

This unit's audit is in Year 2 / Cycle 4 and the agency is working diligently on their audit cycle plan and has planned future audits. The data was posted on the agency website.

115.401(h)

POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:

There is no agency policy for this provision.

FINDINGS:

The Auditor had full access to, and the ability to observe, all areas of the facility. The Auditor reviewed areas of this facility multiple times during the onsite review.

115.401(i)

POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:

There is no agency policy for this provision.

FINDINGS:

The Auditor was permitted to request and did receive copies of any relevant documents needed for this audit.

115.401(m)

POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:

There is no agency policy for this provision.

FINDINGS:

The Auditor was permitted to conduct private interviews with inmates. The staff at this facility were very professional and efficient with regards to this provision.

115.401(n)

POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:

	<p>There is no agency policy for this provision.</p> <p>FINDINGS:</p> <p>Inmates are permitted to send confidential information or correspondence to PREA Auditors in the same manner as if they were communicating with legal counsel.</p>
--	---

115.403	Audit contents and findings
	Auditor Overall Determination: Meets Standard
	Auditor Discussion
	<p>115.403(f)</p> <p>POLICY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW:</p> <p>There is no agency policy for this provision.</p> <p>FINDINGS:</p> <p>TDCJ has published on its agency website all Final Audit Reports within 90 days of issuance by the Auditor. This information is made available to the public and is in accordance with 28 C.F.R. § 115.405.</p>

Appendix: Provision Findings		
115.11 (b)	Zero tolerance of sexual abuse and sexual harassment; PREA coordinator	
	Has the agency employed or designated an agency-wide PREA Coordinator?	yes
	Is the PREA Coordinator position in the upper-level of the agency hierarchy?	yes
	Does the PREA Coordinator have sufficient time and authority to develop, implement, and oversee agency efforts to comply with the PREA standards in all of its facilities?	yes
115.12 (a)	Contracting with other entities for the confinement of inmates	
	If this agency is public and it contracts for the confinement of its inmates with private agencies or other entities including other government agencies, has the agency included the entity's obligation to comply with the PREA standards in any new contract or contract renewal signed on or after August 20, 2012? (N/A if the agency does not contract with private agencies or other entities for the confinement of inmates.)	yes
115.12 (b)	Contracting with other entities for the confinement of inmates	
	Does any new contract or contract renewal signed on or after August 20, 2012 provide for agency contract monitoring to ensure that the contractor is complying with the PREA standards? (N/A if the agency does not contract with private agencies or other entities for the confinement of inmates.)	yes
115.17 (a)	Hiring and promotion decisions	
	Does the agency prohibit the hiring or promotion of anyone who may have contact with inmates who has engaged in sexual abuse in a prison, jail, lockup, community confinement facility, juvenile facility, or other institution (as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1997)?	yes
	Does the agency prohibit the hiring or promotion of anyone who may have contact with inmates who has been convicted of engaging or attempting to engage in sexual activity in the community facilitated by force, overt or implied threats of force, or coercion, or if the victim did not consent or was unable to consent or refuse?	yes
	Does the agency prohibit the hiring or promotion of anyone who may have contact with inmates who has been civilly or administratively adjudicated to have engaged in the activity	yes

	described in the two bullets immediately above?	
	Does the agency prohibit the enlistment of services of any contractor who may have contact with inmates who has engaged in sexual abuse in a prison, jail, lockup, community confinement facility, juvenile facility, or other institution (as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1997)?	yes
	Does the agency prohibit the enlistment of services of any contractor who may have contact with inmates who has been convicted of engaging or attempting to engage in sexual activity in the community facilitated by force, overt or implied threats of force, or coercion, or if the victim did not consent or was unable to consent or refuse?	yes
	Does the agency prohibit the enlistment of services of any contractor who may have contact with inmates who has been civilly or administratively adjudicated to have engaged in the activity described in the two bullets immediately above?	yes
115.17 (b)	Hiring and promotion decisions	
	Does the agency consider any incidents of sexual harassment in determining whether to hire or promote anyone who may have contact with inmates?	yes
	Does the agency consider any incidents of sexual harassment in determining whether to enlist the services of any contractor who may have contact with inmates?	yes
115.17 (c)	Hiring and promotion decisions	
	Before hiring new employees who may have contact with inmates, does the agency perform a criminal background records check?	yes
	Before hiring new employees who may have contact with inmates, does the agency, consistent with Federal, State, and local law, make its best efforts to contact all prior institutional employers for information on substantiated allegations of sexual abuse or any resignation during a pending investigation of an allegation of sexual abuse?	yes
115.17 (d)	Hiring and promotion decisions	
	Does the agency perform a criminal background records check before enlisting the services of any contractor who may have contact with inmates?	yes
115.17 (e)	Hiring and promotion decisions	

	Does the agency either conduct criminal background records checks at least every five years of current employees and contractors who may have contact with inmates or have in place a system for otherwise capturing such information for current employees?	yes
115.17 (f)	Hiring and promotion decisions	
	Does the agency ask all applicants and employees who may have contact with inmates directly about previous misconduct described in paragraph (a) of this section in written applications or interviews for hiring or promotions?	yes
	Does the agency ask all applicants and employees who may have contact with inmates directly about previous misconduct described in paragraph (a) of this section in any interviews or written self-evaluations conducted as part of reviews of current employees?	yes
	Does the agency impose upon employees a continuing affirmative duty to disclose any such misconduct?	yes
115.17 (g)	Hiring and promotion decisions	
	Does the agency consider material omissions regarding such misconduct, or the provision of materially false information, grounds for termination?	yes
115.17 (h)	Hiring and promotion decisions	
	Does the agency provide information on substantiated allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment involving a former employee upon receiving a request from an institutional employer for whom such employee has applied to work? (N/A if providing information on substantiated allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment involving a former employee is prohibited by law.)	yes
115.18 (a)	Upgrades to facilities and technologies	
	If the agency designed or acquired any new facility or planned any substantial expansion or modification of existing facilities, did the agency consider the effect of the design, acquisition, expansion, or modification upon the agency's ability to protect inmates from sexual abuse? (N/A if agency/facility has not acquired a new facility or made a substantial expansion to existing facilities since August 20, 2012, or since the last PREA audit, whichever is later.)	yes
115.18 (b)	Upgrades to facilities and technologies	
	If the agency installed or updated a video monitoring system,	yes

	electronic surveillance system, or other monitoring technology, did the agency consider how such technology may enhance the agency's ability to protect inmates from sexual abuse? (N/A if agency/facility has not installed or updated a video monitoring system, electronic surveillance system, or other monitoring technology since August 20, 2012, or since the last PREA audit, whichever is later.)	
115.42 (c)	Use of screening information	
	When deciding whether to assign a transgender or intersex inmate to a facility for male or female inmates, does the agency consider, on a case-by-case basis, whether a placement would ensure the inmate's health and safety, and whether a placement would present management or security problems (NOTE: if an agency by policy or practice assigns inmates to a male or female facility on the basis of anatomy alone, that agency is not in compliance with this standard)?	yes
	When making housing or other program assignments for transgender or intersex inmates, does the agency consider, on a case-by-case basis, whether a placement would ensure the inmate's health and safety, and whether a placement would present management or security problems?	yes
115.66 (a)	Preservation of ability to protect inmates from contact with abusers	
	Are both the agency and any other governmental entities responsible for collective bargaining on the agency's behalf prohibited from entering into or renewing any collective bargaining agreement or other agreement that limit the agency's ability to remove alleged staff sexual abusers from contact with any inmates pending the outcome of an investigation or of a determination of whether and to what extent discipline is warranted?	yes
115.87 (a)	Data collection	
	Does the agency collect accurate, uniform data for every allegation of sexual abuse at facilities under its direct control using a standardized instrument and set of definitions?	yes
115.87 (b)	Data collection	
	Does the agency aggregate the incident-based sexual abuse data at least annually?	yes
115.87 (c)	Data collection	

	Does the incident-based data include, at a minimum, the data necessary to answer all questions from the most recent version of the Survey of Sexual Violence conducted by the Department of Justice?	yes
115.87 (d)	Data collection	
	Does the agency maintain, review, and collect data as needed from all available incident-based documents, including reports, investigation files, and sexual abuse incident reviews?	yes
115.87 (e)	Data collection	
	Does the agency also obtain incident-based and aggregated data from every private facility with which it contracts for the confinement of its inmates? (N/A if agency does not contract for the confinement of its inmates.)	yes
115.87 (f)	Data collection	
	Does the agency, upon request, provide all such data from the previous calendar year to the Department of Justice no later than June 30? (N/A if DOJ has not requested agency data.)	yes
115.88 (a)	Data review for corrective action	
	Does the agency review data collected and aggregated pursuant to § 115.87 in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training, including by: Identifying problem areas?	yes
	Does the agency review data collected and aggregated pursuant to § 115.87 in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training, including by: Taking corrective action on an ongoing basis?	yes
	Does the agency review data collected and aggregated pursuant to § 115.87 in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training, including by: Preparing an annual report of its findings and corrective actions for each facility, as well as the agency as a whole?	yes
115.88 (b)	Data review for corrective action	
	Does the agency's annual report include a comparison of the current year's data and corrective actions with those from prior years and provide an assessment of the agency's progress in addressing sexual abuse?	yes

115.88 (c)	Data review for corrective action	
	Is the agency's annual report approved by the agency head and made readily available to the public through its website or, if it does not have one, through other means?	yes
115.88 (d)	Data review for corrective action	
	Does the agency indicate the nature of the material redacted where it redacts specific material from the reports when publication would present a clear and specific threat to the safety and security of a facility?	yes
115.89 (a)	Data storage, publication, and destruction	
	Does the agency ensure that data collected pursuant to § 115.87 are securely retained?	yes
115.89 (b)	Data storage, publication, and destruction	
	Does the agency make all aggregated sexual abuse data, from facilities under its direct control and private facilities with which it contracts, readily available to the public at least annually through its website or, if it does not have one, through other means?	yes
115.89 (c)	Data storage, publication, and destruction	
	Does the agency remove all personal identifiers before making aggregated sexual abuse data publicly available?	yes
115.89 (d)	Data storage, publication, and destruction	
	Does the agency maintain sexual abuse data collected pursuant to § 115.87 for at least 10 years after the date of the initial collection, unless Federal, State, or local law requires otherwise?	yes
115.401 (a)	Frequency and scope of audits	
	During the prior three-year audit period, did the agency ensure that each facility operated by the agency, or by a private organization on behalf of the agency, was audited at least once? (Note: The response here is purely informational. A "no" response does not impact overall compliance with this standard.)	yes
115.401 (b)	Frequency and scope of audits	
	Is this the first year of the current audit cycle? (Note: a "no" response does not impact overall compliance with this standard.)	no

	If this is the second year of the current audit cycle, did the agency ensure that at least one-third of each facility type operated by the agency, or by a private organization on behalf of the agency, was audited during the first year of the current audit cycle? (N/A if this is not the second year of the current audit cycle.)	na
	If this is the third year of the current audit cycle, did the agency ensure that at least two-thirds of each facility type operated by the agency, or by a private organization on behalf of the agency, were audited during the first two years of the current audit cycle? (N/A if this is not the third year of the current audit cycle.)	yes
115.403 (f)	Audit contents and findings	
	The agency has published on its agency website, if it has one, or has otherwise made publicly available, all Final Audit Reports. The review period is for prior audits completed during the past three years PRECEDING THIS AUDIT. The pendency of any agency appeal pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 115.405 does not excuse noncompliance with this provision. (N/A if there have been no Final Audit Reports issued in the past three years, or, in the case of single facility agencies, there has never been a Final Audit Report issued.)	yes