

AWEC Talking Points Related to Staff Sexual Misconduct

- Maintaining professional boundaries as corrections employees is essential to meeting our mission to ensure public safety, our staff safety, and the welfare of those we supervise.
- Staff working in the corrections field must adhere to a formal ethical, professional, policy driven, and lawful code of conduct that prohibits staff sexual misconduct of those persons supervised.
- An individual under any status of correctional supervision is (and deserves) to be protected from sexual behavior and victimization by staff and other supervised persons.
- If there is a finding after a complete and final investigation that corrections staff violated statutory and/or agency policy related to sexual misconduct, staff is to be held accountable to the fullest extent to include employment termination and referral for criminal prosecution.
- Any incident of staff sexual misconduct with an individual under supervision is one too many.
- The employment of women staff enhances the safety, operations, communication, and security within the corrections organization.
- Women staff have been successfully working with male persons under supervision, both in confinement facilities and in the community, for more than 40 years.
- Research has shown that women staff working with confined men 'normalize' the environment (de-escalate issues), and enhance communication, operations, and culture.
- Women staff are representing a significant percentage of employment in confinement and community settings, however there is also reporting of unacceptable levels of sexual misconduct by women staff with those under supervision. More recent and in-depth research in this area is forthcoming.
- AWEC supports the American Correctional Association Public Correctional Policy on Sexual Misconduct with Offenders/Detainees (2005-4) affirmed August 19, 2015; and the Public Correctional Policy on Employment of Women in Corrections (1987-4) affirmed January 15, 2012.
- AWEC supports full compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), final rule effective August 20, 2012.