

PREA RESPONSIVE PLANNING

Williamson County Juvenile Services (Central Administration)

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Related Standards: PREA 115.322

POLICY

It is the policy of Williamson County Juvenile Services (WCJS) to take a proactive stance in planning for investigation of allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Further, WCJS will refer potentially criminal cases to the Williamson County Sheriff's office for possible criminal investigation. The following policies adhere to current PREA standards.

Policies to Ensure Referrals of Allegations for Investigations:

- (a) WCJS shall ensure the completion of an administrative, and if necessary criminal, investigation for all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. **PREA 115.322(a)**
- (b) WCJS shall refer all allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment involving potentially criminal behavior to the Williamson County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office is the agency with the legal authority to conduct criminal investigations, and will investigate any potentially criminal behavior that stems from a sexual abuse or sexual harassment allegation that occurs in any Department operated facility. The Assistant Director of Juvenile Services will document and maintain the documentation for all such referrals. WCJS shall publish this policy on the "wilco.org" website. **PREA 115.322(b)**
- (c) WCJS shall include the following responsibilities with the policy published on the "wilco.org" website: **PREA 115.322(c)**
 - i. WCJS is responsible for the conduct of an initial internal investigation to determine if policy, procedure, and practice were violated, and if there is the potential for criminal behavior by a staff member or resident.
 - ii. WCJS is responsible for referring allegations with potentially criminal behavior to the Williamson County Sheriff's Office, and referring all other allegations to TJJJ for investigation.
 - iii. WCJS is also responsible for fully cooperating with investigations into allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment.
 - iv. The Williamson County Sheriff's Office is responsible for conducting a criminal investigation in accordance with current standards of law enforcement protocol.
 - v. TJJJ is responsible for conducting administrative investigations into allegations of sexual abuse in accordance with TAC Chapter 350. **PREA 115.322(d)**
- (d) WCJS shall request that any Department of Justice component responsible for conducting administrative or criminal investigations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment in juvenile facilities shall have in place a policy governing the conduct of such investigations. **PREA 115.322(e)**