

**TRAVIS COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

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Phone: (512) 854-7000

**CORY J. BURGESS**  
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

# 2026

## PREA Annual Report

Reference: 28 CFR 115.388: Data Review for Corrective Action

The Travis County Juvenile Probation Department (Department) maintains a zero-tolerance policy for all forms of abuse, neglect, and exploitation including sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Prevention and detection efforts include comprehensive staff screening, training, adequate supervision, resident education, and early identification of risk indicators.

Community members, family, and other third parties who suspect abuse or misconduct within any of the Department's residential facilities are encouraged to report concerns by calling **1-877-786-7263 (STOP ANE)**.

During the period of January 1 through December 31, 2025, the Gardner-Betts Juvenile Justice Center reported two allegations involving staff misconduct of a sexual nature (See chart DS-1). These included one allegation of staff-on-youth sexual abuse and one allegation of staff-on-youth sexual harassment. Both cases were investigated and classified as unsubstantiated/unable to determine. There were no substantiated or unfounded staff-on-youth allegations during 2025.

When compared to previous years, 2025 does not reflect an increase in confirmed incidents of sexual abuse or harassment. The facility has not had a substantiated staff-on-youth sexual abuse allegation since 2018. While isolated allegations have been reported in certain years, such as unfounded cases in 2022 and 2023, there has been no sustained pattern or upward trend in substantiated sexual misconduct. Overall, the data indicates that confirmed incidents of staff sexual abuse have remained rare, and 2025 did not demonstrate a prevalence of sexual abuse over prior years.

During the same period, the Jeanne Meurer Intermediate Sanctions Center (ISC) reported three allegations of staff-on-youth sexual harassment. All three allegations were investigated and classified as unsubstantiated/unable to determine (see chart RS-1). There were no substantiated (confirmed) allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment during 2025, and no unfounded allegations were reported. Additionally, there were no youth-on-youth allegations of sexual abuse or harassment during the reporting period.

In comparison to prior years, 2025 does not reflect an increase in confirmed incidents. The most recent substantiated allegation occurred in 2023 and involved staff-on-youth sexual abuse (see corrective action plan in 2024 report). Earlier confirmed cases were sporadic, including youth-on-youth incidents in 2018 and 2019 and a substantiated staff-on-youth sexual harassment allegation in 2022. While allegations have occurred periodically over the years, there is no consistent pattern or upward trend in substantiated sexual abuse or harassment. Overall, confirmed incidents remain infrequent, and 2025 did not demonstrate the prevalence of substantiated sexual misconduct.

To further ensure the safety and well-being of youth in its care, the Department will continue to:

- I. Maintain public access to PREA information via the Department's website.
- II. Prominently display third-party reporting posters in public areas, programming areas, and housing areas detailing how to report allegations directly to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) at 1-877-(STOP ANE) 786-7263.
- III. Make available information brochures, created by TJJD, outlining reporting methods.
- IV. Educate residents during the intake and orientation process consisting of their right to be free from sexual abuse and sexual harassment, strategies to avoid victimization, and methods for reporting abuse, neglect, and exploitation to include sexual abuse and sexual harassment.
- V. Adhere to mandated staffing ratios to ensure proper supervision.
- VI. Ensure adequate staff coverage based on population needs and review the Department Staffing Plan annually.
- VII. Conduct unannounced supervisory rounds throughout the facility.
- VIII. Require staff to announce their presence when entering housing units of the opposite gender, promoting resident privacy.
- IX. Provide annual staff training on:
  - a) Zero-tolerance policy for sexual abuse and sexual harassment;
  - b) Role in prevention, detection, responding, and reporting sexual abuse and sexual harassment;
  - c) Residents' rights and protections against retaliation;
  - d) The dynamics of sexual abuse and sexual harassment in juvenile facilities;
  - e) Dynamics of sexual abuse in juvenile settings;
  - f) Identifying and responding to signs of abuse; and
  - g) Compliance with mandatory reporting laws.
- X. Conduct criminal history and background checks on employees, volunteers, interns, and contractors.
- XI. The Department will report and investigate all allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation—including sexual abuse and sexual harassment. The Department will report all criminal allegations to the appropriate law enforcement agency for investigation, referring all allegations to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) as required, and ensure thorough administrative investigations are conducted for every allegation.

This report reflects the department's unwavering commitment to the safety and dignity of every youth entrusted to its care and aligns with federal standards under the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).

JANUARY 1, 2025 – DECEMBER 31, 2025

(DS-1)

<b>Allegations of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment Gardner-Betts Juvenile Justice Center (Detention)</b>								
<b>Substantiated Allegations/Confirmed</b>								
<b>Allegation Type</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
Youth-on-Youth Sexual Abuse	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Youth-on-Youth Sexual Harassment	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Abuse	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Unsubstantiated Allegations/Unable to Determine</b>								
<b>Allegation Type</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
Youth-on-Youth Sexual Abuse	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Youth-on-Youth Sexual Harassment	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Abuse	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Unfounded Allegations</b>								
<b>Allegation Type</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
Youth-on-Youth Sexual Abuse	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Youth-on-Youth Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

JANUARY 1, 2025 – DECEMBER 31, 2025

(RS-1)

<b>Allegations of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment Jeanne Meurer Intermediate Sanctions Center (ISC)</b>								
<b>Substantiated Allegations/Confirmed</b>								
<b>Allegation Type</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
Youth-on-Youth Sexual Abuse	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Youth-on-Youth Sexual Harassment	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Unsubstantiated Allegations/Unable to Determine</b>								
<b>Allegation Type</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
Youth-on-Youth Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Youth-on-Youth Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
<b>Unfounded Allegations</b>								
<b>Allegation Type</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
Youth-on-Youth Sexual Abuse	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Youth-on-Youth Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Abuse	0	0	3	2	0	2	2	0
Staff-on-Youth Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

**Definitions**

**Calendar Year:** January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> (The report consists of the previous year’s data.)

1. **Substantiated/Confirmed Allegations:** The administrative investigation had sufficient evidence to prove the allegation(s) using the preponderance of evidence standard.
2. **Unsubstantiated Allegations/Unable to Determine:** The investigation revealed insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation(s).
3. **Unfounded:** The investigation had sufficient evidence to prove the allegations were false or not factual.
4. **Youth-on-Youth Sexual Abuse:** Any sexual contact or act of a sexual nature directed toward a youth by another youth. Sexual acts include intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks with intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire.
5. **Youth-on-Youth Sexual Harassment:** Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by one youth directed toward another.
6. **Staff-on-Youth Sexual Abuse:** Any behavior or act of a sexual nature directed toward a youth by an employee, volunteer, contractor, official visitor, or other agency representative (excluding family, friends, or other visitors). Sexual relationships of a romantic nature between staff and youth are included in this definition. Consensual or nonconsensual sexual acts include intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks that is unrelated to official duties or with intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire; or completed, attempted, threatened, or requested sexual acts; or occurrences of indecent exposure, invasion of privacy, or staff voyeurism for reasons unrelated to official duties or for sexual gratification.
7. **Staff-on-Youth Staff Sexual Harassment:** Repeated verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to a youth by an employee, volunteer, contractor, official visitor, or other agency representative (excludes family, friends, or other visitors). Include demeaning references to gender; sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing; or repeated profane or obscene language or gestures.

Signed by:



2/12/2026

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**Kris Johnson, PREA Coordinator**

**Date**

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2/12/2026

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**Cory J. Burgess, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer**

**Date**