



2023 Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Annual Report

VISIONQUEST NATIONAL, LTD

Introduction

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was enacted in 2003 to eliminate sexual abuse and harassment in confinement settings. PREA's implementing regulations, the "Final National Standards to Prevent, Detect and Respond to Prison Rape," were published by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and became effective on June 20, 2012. This federal act became mandated upon juvenile programs and recognized August 20, 2012 as the start date for compliance.

Agencies that had multiple programs were to get all programs audited within a three year period. The programs would then be subject to a review every three years from their last audit. In 2014, Pennsylvania recognized that PREA implementation was a slow starter and that the Bureau of Human Services Licensing should not penalize programs for being out of compliance in the first year cycle. VisionQuest contracted and started working with an auditor in January 2016 and with a committed and accelerated effort, completed the first PREA audit in May 2016. Historically, VisionQuest already reported and kept records of all abuse allegations and exercised much of the PREA practices prior to the inception and imposing of PREA as a federal mandate. This practice assisted in the gathering and assessment of data prescribed by PREA standards.

Agency Description

VisionQuest currently offers residential, community, and in-home programs to youth and their families in Arizona, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Texas. These programs serve youth and their families in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems; youth with mental health and substance abuse diagnoses; and families experiencing varying levels of dysfunction. In Pennsylvania, VisionQuest was licensed to operate a 12 bed facility for males in Lehigh. In Delaware, VisionQuest operates two 10-bed Residential Alternative to Detention (RAD) programs for both males and females. In order to demonstrate compliance with PREA, juvenile residential facilities such as those operated by VisionQuest must be audited every three years. Programs are given 180 days from the date of the written audit to formulate a plan of correction for their deficiencies. VisionQuest submitted the last of its plan of correction in October 2016 and was deemed compliant with all PREA standards.

VisionQuest collects data on every allegation of sexual abuse and sexual harassment at the facility, regardless of the resulting outcome of the investigation. Each allegation of abuse is reported to the specific state's child abuse hotline and law enforcement. Upon completion of the investigation by the state and/or the appropriate law enforcement agency, a review is conducted by VisionQuest facility administration and assigned corporate members. The objective of this review is to identify, evaluate and direct any determined changes to policy or practice at that specific facility or agency wide that are needed to prevent future incidents. A report with its findings and recommendations is produced at the completion of the review and kept on file.



Definitions (As prescribed by PREA and the Survey for Sexual Victims)

Youth on youth sexual misconduct (consensual sexual acts) – Sexual contact in which one or more youth are engaged in, attempting to engage in, or have completed a consensual sexual act with another offender.

Youth on youth non-consensual sexual acts – Sexual contact of any person without his or her consent, or of a person who is unable to consent or refuse; and sexual contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus including penetration, however slight; or contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva, or anus; or penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person, however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or other instrument.

Youth on youth abusive sexual contact – Sexual contact of any person without his or her consent, or of a person who is unable to consent or refuse; and intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of any person (this excludes any incidents in which the contact was incidental to a physical altercation).

Youth on youth sexual harassment – Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances and requests for sexual favors, or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by one youth directed toward another.

Staff sexual misconduct – 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 youths are included in this definition. Consensual or non-consensual 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 the 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.

Staff sexual harassment – Repeated verbal statements, comments or gestures of a sexual nature to a youth by an employee, volunteer, contractor, official visitor, or other agency representative (excluding family, friends, or other visitors). This includes: Demeaning references to gender, or sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing; or Repeated profane or obscene language or gestures.

Substantiated allegation – An allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.



Unsubstantiated allegation – An allegation that was investigated and produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether or not the event occurred.

Unfounded allegation – An allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

VISIONQUEST FACILITIES STATISTICS

1/1/23–12/31/23

VisionQuest Program	# In Care on 1/1/23	# In Care on 12/31/23	# of Admissions	# of Discharges	Total Number Served
RAD-Milford	6	3	62	65	68
RAD-Newark	3	2	60	61	63
Totals:			122	126	131

DEMOGRAPHICS

1/1/23–12/31/23

VisionQuest Program	Males	Females	Other	LGBTQI+	Age 14 and Under	Age 15-18
RAD-Milford	62	6	0	0	15	53
RAD-Newark	52	11	0	1	14	49
Total	114	17	0	1	29	102

STAFF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT 2023

Staff on Youth Sexual Misconduct

VisionQuest Program	Total Allegations	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Investigation Ongoing
RAD-Milford	1	0	1	0	0
RAD-Newark	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0

Staff on Youth Sexual Harassment

VisionQuest Program	Total Allegations	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Investigation Ongoing



RAD-Milford	0	0	0	0	0
RAD-Newark	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0

YOUTH ON YOUTH SEXUAL VICTIMIZATION 2023

Youth on Youth Sexual Misconduct

VisionQuest Programs	Total Allegations	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Investigation Ongoing
RAD-Milford	2	0	2	0	0
RAD-Newark	4	0	4	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0

Youth on Youth Sexual Abuse

VisionQuest Programs	Total Allegations	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Investigation Ongoing
RAD-Milford	0	0	0	0	0
RAD-Newark	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0

Youth on Youth Abusive Sexual Contact

VisionQuest Programs	Total Allegations	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Investigation Ongoing
RAD-Milford	0	0	0	0	0
RAD-Newark	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0

Youth on Youth Abusive Sexual Harassment

VisionQuest Programs	Total Allegations	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Investigation Ongoing



RAD-Milford	0	0	0	0	0
RAD-Newark	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0

Conclusion

During the calendar year of 2023, there were one (1) allegations made concerning staff sexual misconduct and six (6) allegations reported for youth on youth sexual victimization.

VisionQuest strives to place the safety and well-being of our residents as its foremost priority. VisionQuest will continue to thoroughly report and investigate any allegations or incidents of sexual abuse or harassment and pursue quality improvement in meeting or exceeding PREA standards. We remain committed in our efforts to prevent, detect and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment within all of our facilities.

Anyone who suspects a resident placed with VisionQuest is being sexually abused or sexually harassed is urged to contact one of the following entities (if it is an emergency and a child is imminent danger, contact 9-1-1):

Delaware:

Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-292-9582

https://kids.delaware.gov/fs/fs_can_report.shtml

Delaware State Police

<https://dsp.delaware.gov/locations/>

Pennsylvania

ChildLine (Child Abuse Hotline) 1-800-932-0313

www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home

Pennsylvania State Police

<http://www.psp.pa.gov/contact/Pages/Station-Directory.aspx>

VisionQuest Hotline

Third party grievances can be filed through the company website (www.vq.com) using the VQ Report It link or by contacting the program PREA Compliance Manager.

Any questions or concerns regarding the implementation of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) within the VisionQuest programs should contact the agency PREA Coordinator at 520-261-4347.