



## 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 mandated compliance for juvenile programs starting August 20, 2012.

VisionQuest is committed to full compliance with PREA standards to ensure the safety and well-being of the youth in our care. Historically, VisionQuest has reported and maintained records of all abuse allegations, exercising many PREA practices prior to its federal mandate. This proactive approach has facilitated the gathering and assessment of data as prescribed by PREA standards.

### Agency Description

VisionQuest 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, including youth with mental health and substance abuse diagnoses.

In Delaware, VisionQuest operates two 10-bed Residential Alternative to Detention (RAD) programs for males and females. To demonstrate compliance with PREA, juvenile residential facilities like those operated by VisionQuest must be audited every three years. VisionQuest completed its most recent PREA audit in 2023 and continues to meet all PREA standards.

### Data Collection and Review

VisionQuest collects data on every allegation of sexual abuse and sexual harassment, regardless of the outcome of the investigation. Each allegation is reported to the respective state's child abuse hotline and law enforcement agencies. Upon completion of investigations, a review is conducted by facility administration and corporate members to identify and implement any necessary changes to policies or practices to prevent future incidents. A report with findings and recommendations is produced and maintained on file.

### Definitions

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

- **Youth-on-Youth Sexual Misconduct (Consensual Sexual Acts):** Sexual contact where one or more youth engage in or attempt to engage in consensual sexual acts with another youth.
- **Youth-on-Youth Non-Consensual Sexual Acts:** Sexual contact without consent, including penetration or contact between genitalia, mouth, or anal areas.



- **Youth-on-Youth Abusive Sexual Contact:** Intentional touching without consent of intimate body parts, excluding incidental contact during physical altercations.
- **Youth-on-Youth Sexual Harassment:** Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or derogatory comments of a sexual nature.
- **Staff Sexual Misconduct:** Any sexual behavior directed toward a youth by staff, including romantic relationships or inappropriate touching.
- **Staff Sexual Harassment:** Repeated verbal statements or gestures of a sexual nature by staff toward a youth.
- **Substantiated Allegation:** An allegation investigated and determined to have occurred.
- **Unsubstantiated Allegation:** An allegation investigated with insufficient evidence to make a final determination.
- **Unfounded Allegation:** An allegation investigated and determined not to have occurred.

## Facility Statistics

January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

VisionQuest Program	# In Care on 1/1/23	# Admissions	# Discharges	# In Care on 12/31/23	Total Number Served
RAD-Milford	6	62	65	3	68
RAD-Newark	3	60	61	2	63
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>131</b>

## Demographics

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



## Comparison of Allegations: 2022 vs. 2023

### Staff-on-Youth Sexual Misconduct

Year	Total Allegations	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Investigation Ongoing
2022	0	0	0	0	0
2023	1	0	1	0	0

### Youth-on-Youth Sexual Misconduct

Year	Total Allegations	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Investigation Ongoing
2022	0	0	0	0	0
2023	6	0	6	0	0

### Youth-on-Youth Non-Consensual Sexual Acts

Year	Total Allegations	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Investigation Ongoing
2022	0	0	0	0	0
2023	0	0	0	0	0

### Youth-on-Youth Abusive Sexual Contact

Year	Total Allegations	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Investigation Ongoing
2022	0	0	0	0	0
2023	0	0	0	0	0

### Youth-on-Youth Sexual Harassment



Year	Total Allegations	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Investigation Ongoing
2022	0	0	0	0	0
2023	0	0	0	0	0

#### Staff Sexual Harassment

Year	Total Allegations	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Investigation Ongoing
2022	0	0	0	0	0
2023	0	0	0	0	0

#### Analysis

- **Staff-on-Youth Sexual Misconduct:** In 2023, there was one allegation of staff-on-youth sexual misconduct at RAD-Milford, which was investigated and found to be unsubstantiated. This represents an increase from 2022, where there were no such allegations.
- **Youth-on-Youth Sexual Misconduct:** In 2023, there were six allegations (two at RAD-Milford and four at RAD-Newark) of youth-on-youth sexual misconduct, all of which were unsubstantiated. In 2022, there were no such allegations.

#### Corrective Actions and Recommendations for Improvement

No Corrective Actions Needed.

#### Conclusion

VisionQuest remains steadfast in its commitment to the safety and well-being of our residents. The increase in reported allegations from 2022 to 2023 underscores the importance of continued vigilance, education, and proactive measures to prevent sexual abuse and harassment.

We will continue to thoroughly report and investigate all allegations or incidents, pursuing quality improvement in meeting or exceeding PREA standards. Our efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and harassment within our facilities are ongoing and paramount.



## Reporting Mechanisms

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 in imminent danger, contact 9-1-1):

- **Delaware:**
  - Child Abuse Hotline: **1-800-292-9582**
  - [https://kids.delaware.gov/fs/fs\\_can\\_report.shtml](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](http://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](http://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 VisionQuest programs should be directed to the agency PREA Coordinator at **936-241-1674**.

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## Approval

This report has been reviewed and approved for public release by the agency PREA Coordinator.

*Juan Alvarez*

**Juan Alvarez**

**National Director of Compliance & Operations**

**Date:** 10/1/2024

# Audit trail

## Details

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