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### Ending Silence: Demanding Safety from Sexual Assault - I reported

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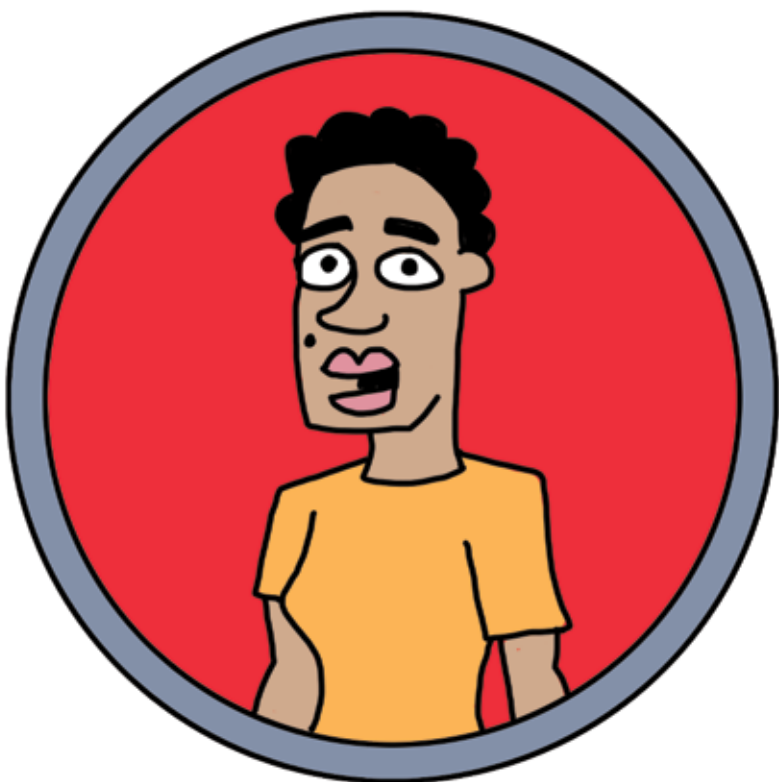


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# ***ENDING SILENCE***

DEMANDING SAFETY FROM SEXUAL ABUSE



## ***I REPORTED***

BY:  
CALEB J. BESS  
REBECCA I. HEINSEN  
JAIME M. YARUSSI  
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ILLUSTRATED BY:  
MICHAEL J. AUGER

## **Ending Silence: Demanding Safety from Sexual Abuse**

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[www.Arty4ever.com](http://www.Arty4ever.com)

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## FOREWORD

Since 1999, The Project on Addressing Prison Rape (Project) at American University, Washington College of Law has provided training to correctional decision makers, agencies, advocates, associations and individuals looking to end sexual abuse of individuals in custodial settings.

The *Ending Silence: Demanding Safety from Sexual Abuse* series is the product of work by many of these concerned and committed organizations and individuals. We thank them for their insights and honest comments about this publication.

The *Ending Silence* series includes two other graphic novels — one involving a heterosexual female in a prison and another involving a heterosexual male in custody. While there are several story lines and the novels might lend themselves to discussion with particular groups, they are useful for any group of inmates. Though not intended for this purpose, we have also learned that many jurisdictions are using these materials in training their staff as well.

*I Reported* is intended to assist inmates in identifying, addressing, and responding appropriately to incidents of sexual abuse by staff or other inmates as required by the Inmate Education Standard, § 115.33 of the National PREA Standards.

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# INTRODUCTION

*I Reported* is a graphic novel that depicts incidents of sexual abuse of a transgender female inmate reporting and subsequent recovery process. This story also includes an inappropriate cross gender strip search.

At the end of the graphic novel you will find: blank slides for inmates to fill in a suggested continuation for the story; a glossary of terms; discussion questions; resources for inmates; and note pages. While we understand that laws and policies differ by state, this publication can be used nationwide. To that end, we have generalized content and details of this novel. This novel is appropriate to use for adults in custodial settings.

Please contact us with comments about these novels, the usefulness of graphic novels as a tool for training inmates, and suggestions for other needed resources.

The Project on Addressing Prison Rape can be reached at:  
202-274-4385 or [endsilence@wcl.american.edu](mailto:endsilence@wcl.american.edu)

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DEMANDING SAFETY FROM SEXUAL ABUSE

## ***I REPORTED***

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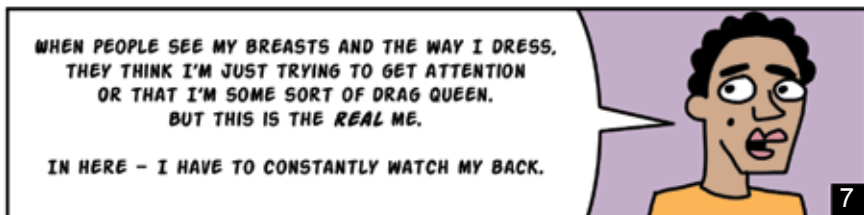
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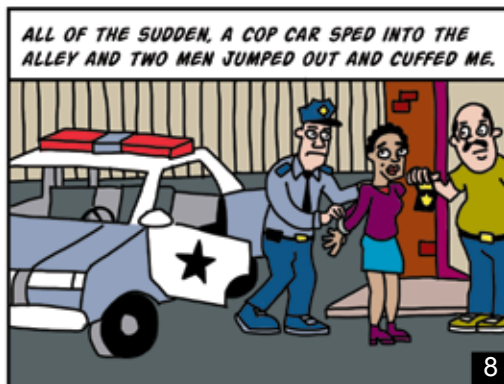
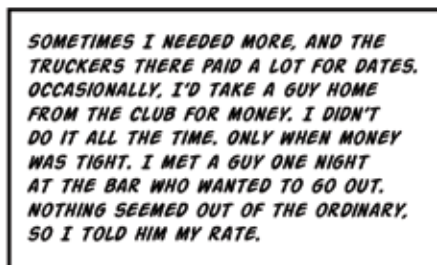
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THEY ARRESTED ME FOR PROSTITUTION AND FOR DRUG POSSESSION BECAUSE I WAS CARRYING A LITTLE WEED AND THAT'S HOW I ENDED UP IN THIS PLACE.

HONESTLY THOUGH, GETTING ARRESTED WAS THE LEAST OF MY PROBLEMS...

I'M SENTENCING YOU TO TWO YEARS FOR PROSTITUTION AND POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED DANGEROUS SUBSTANCE. YOU WILL SERVE YOUR TWO YEARS IN THE GROVER HILLS FACILITY.

SIR, THAT'S A MEN'S PRISON. I KNOW I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF SAY HERE, BUT PLEASE LET ME DO MY TIME IN A WOMEN'S FACILITY.

KAYLA, YOU ARE A MAN. YOU HAVE MALE GENITALIA. WE'LL HAVE TO PUT YOU IN WITH THE MEN.

FROM THE START, BEING IN THE MALE FACILITY WAS HARD FOR ME.

I FELT VIOLATED FROM THE VERY FIRST STRIP SEARCH.

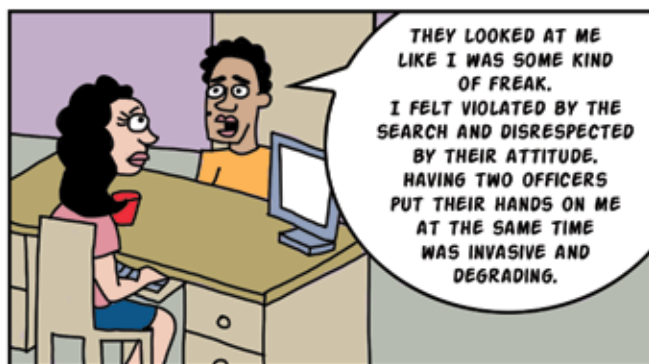
ALRIGHT, MA'AM... UM SIR, I'LL NEED YOU TO REMOVE YOUR CLOTHING FOR THE STRIP SEARCH.

CALL ME MA'AM. MY NAME IS KAYLA.

EVERYTHING WAS FINE, UNTIL IT GOT BELOW THE WAIST...

ALRIGHT, HA HA, WHATEVER YOU SAY...

UM, ALRIGHT, SIR... SORRY MA'AM, HOLD TIGHT, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO CALL FOR BACK UP.



I BARELY LASTED A DAY IN THE CELL BEFORE I HAD TO GO TO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY. IT'S REALLY SEGREGATION THOUGH. YOU CAN'T GO OUT. YOU CAN'T PROGRAM. ANYWAY, I SHARED A CELL WITH ANOTHER TRANSWOMAN. EVEN THOUGH I FELT A LITTLE BIT SAFER THERE, BEING IN SEGREGATION MADE ME EVEN MORE OF A TARGET.



THE OTHER TRANS GIRLS IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY KEPT TELLING ME ABOUT HOW I NEEDED TO "FIND A MAN" WHO COULD TAKE CARE OF ME.

YOU NEED TO FIND SOMEONE BEFORE THEY ALL START USING YOU.



I CAN FEND FOR MYSELF IN HERE.

YEAH, YOU SAY THAT NOW. YOU COULD TRY DONNIE, I SEE THE WAY HE LOOKS AT YOU.

YEAH, HE WOULD BE GOOD TO YOU.



SO THE INMATES WERE PRESSURING YOU TO GET INTO A "PROTECTIVE PAIRING" SITUATION?

THAT'S A GOOD NAME FOR IT.



I DON'T THINK THEY WERE PRESSURING ME. THEY WERE JUST TELLING ME WHAT THEY THOUGHT WOULD WORK. I DIDN'T WANT TO WHORE MYSELF OUT IN PRISON LIKE I DID ON THE STREET. BUT I COULDN'T AVOID THE TAUNTING AND HARASSMENT BY THE OTHER INMATES...





WALKING TO THE SHOWERS WAS THE WORST. MEN WOULD ALWAYS CAT-CALL ME AND REACH FOR ME TO TRY TO TOUCH ME.



AND THEN ONE DAY, WHEN THE COS WEREN'T WATCHING, ONE OF THE INMATES RAPED ME. AFTERWARDS, I FELT LIKE NOTHING.



I WASN'T SURE IF I'D BE ABLE TO MAKE IT IN THIS PLACE. I EVEN CONSIDERED TAKING MYSELF OUT-SUICIDE, YOU KNOW.

AFTER THAT... I JUST LET THE OTHER MEN USE ME. SOMETIMES I GOT THINGS FOR IT - PROTECTION, FOOD, SMOKES...



I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES UNTIL I MET WITH THE PRISON DOCTOR, DR. MOORE...



KAYLA, THE NURSE JUST GAVE ME YOUR BLOOD WORK. I'M SORRY TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT YOU HAVE TESTED POSITIVE FOR MANY DIFFERENT STIS, INCLUDING GONORRHEA AND HIV.

I'M REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU. YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY OF THESE INFECTIONS WHEN YOU CAME IN AND YOU ARE GOING TO LEAVE THIS PLACE WITH ILLNESSES THAT, IF NOT TAKEN CARE OF, COULD BE FATAL.

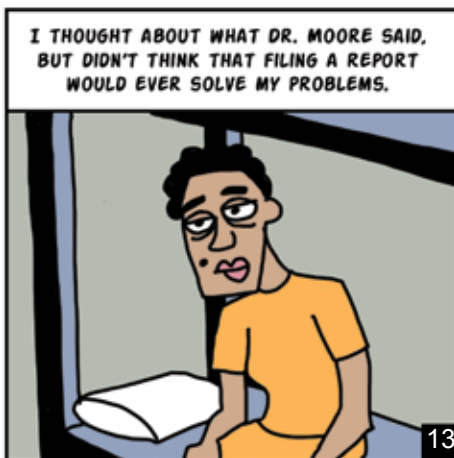


THE SAD THING WAS THAT WHEN DR. MOORE TOLD ME THAT I HAD HIV, I DIDN'T EVEN CARE. I WASN'T SURPRISED. I ALREADY FELT AS IF I WERE DEAD ANYWAY.





ALRIGHT, DR. MOORE, I WILL.







MS. JONES, I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID TO ME AND I THINK I AM READY. I'D LIKE TO FILE A REPORT, BUT BEFORE I DO, CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME?

OKAY KAYLA. LET ME EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENS.

AFTER YOU MAKE THE REPORT I WILL TALK TO THE FACILITY PREA COORDINATOR WHO WILL BEGIN AN INVESTIGATION. THEY MAY PUT YOU IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY OR MOVE YOUR CELL. THEY WILL INTERVIEW YOU AS WELL AS YOUR ABUSERS AND ANY STAFF WHO MAY HAVE KNOWN.

THEY WILL ALSO OFFER YOU MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH INTERVENTIONS, BUT BASED ON YOUR CONTACT WITH DR. MOORE AND MYSELF—YOU MAY NOT NEED ANYTHING ADDITIONAL—THAT WILL BE UP TO YOU. I'D BE HAPPY TO HELP YOU MAKE A REPORT IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO DO.

YES, THANKS SO MUCH FOR HELPING ME THROUGH THIS PROCESS. I DON'T THINK I WOULD BE DOING THIS IF YOU WEREN'T HERE WITH ME.

I'M JUST GLAD THAT I CAN HELP.

I WAS SO GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF MS. JONES' HELP. EVEN THOUGH THE COS KNEW THAT I WAS BEING ABUSED, THEY NEVER TALKED TO ME ABOUT IT OR DID ANYTHING TO HELP ME OUT. I REALIZED THAT I NEEDED TO START CARING ABOUT MYSELF AND DOING WHAT I COULD TO PROTECT MYSELF, WHATEVER THE CONSEQUENCES. NOTHING BEATS A FAILURE BUT A TRY—RIGHT?

ALRIGHT, I FILED THE REPORT. CAN YOU REMIND ME AGAIN WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW?



PREA IS THE PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT. IT'S A FEDERAL LAW THAT TRIES TO END SEXUAL ABUSE IN CUSTODY. IT ALSO MAKES CORRECTIONS OFFICERS, AND THIS FACILITY ACCOUNTABLE WHEN THEY DO NOT REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE, AND DO NOT PROPERLY PROTECT RESIDENTS FROM IT.



WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU IS MORALLY WRONG, BUT IT IS ALSO ILLEGAL AND IN VIOLATION OF FEDERAL AND STATE LAW, AND AGENCY RULES.

WOW, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.



SEXUAL ABUSE IS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE TOLERATED IN THIS FACILITY OR ANY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY.



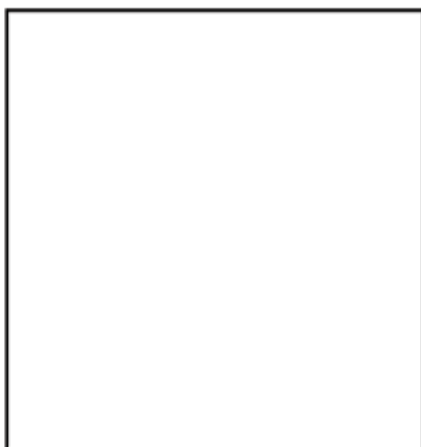
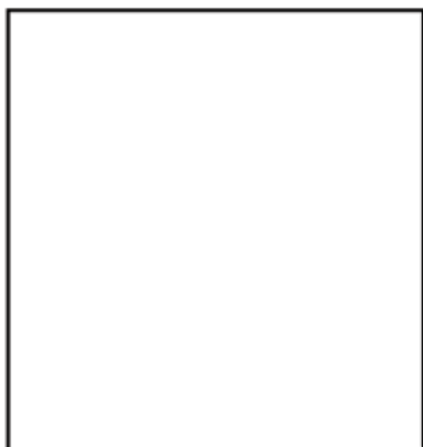
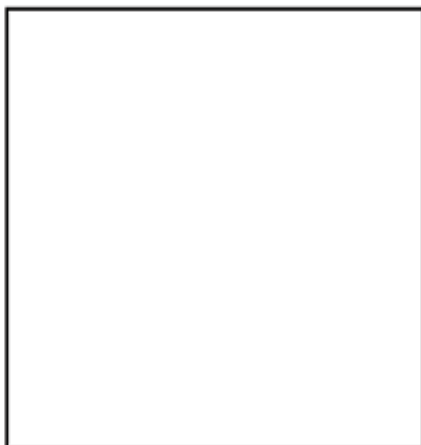
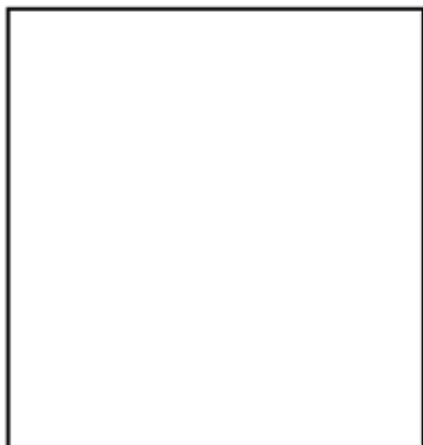
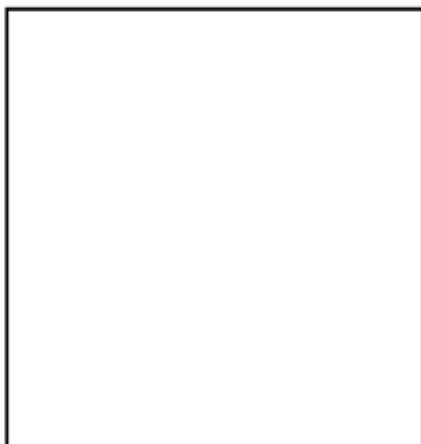
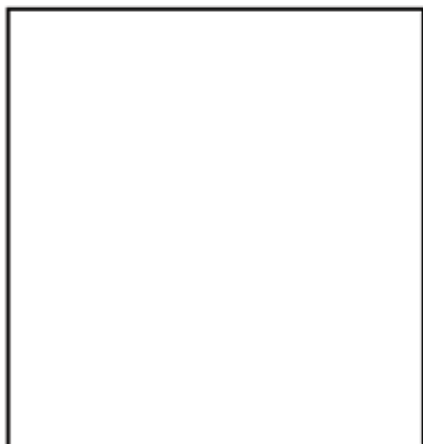
WHEN YOU REPORT INCIDENTS LIKE THE ONES THAT HAPPENED TO YOU, THE FACILITY SHOULD CARRY OUT AN INVESTIGATION, MAKE A FINDING, PUNISH THOSE INVOLVED, AND MAKE SURE THAT THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN AGAIN.



I'LL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL TO DR. MOORE AND MS. JONES. A MONTH AFTER I FILED THE COMPLAINT, MY ABUSERS WERE MOVED TO ANOTHER FACILITY AND CRIMINALLY PROSECUTED FOR WHAT THEY DID TO ME. I'M STILL RECOVERING FROM THE INCIDENT. IT WILL TAKE A REALLY LONG TIME FOR ME TO FEEL GOOD ABOUT MYSELF AGAIN. I'M STILL SEEING MS. JONES AND EACH WEEK, IT FEELS LIKE THINGS ARE GETTING BETTER. THE COS ARE EVEN STARTING TO TREAT ME WITH MORE RESPECT. THEY LISTEN NOW WHEN I SAY THAT I PREFER FEMALE OFFICERS TO SEARCH ME. I AM GLAD I REPORTED.



***FINISH THE STORY...***



## **GLOSSARY**

*Definitions in this glossary are adapted from both the Bureau of Justice Statistics data collection survey instrument and the final PREA Standards issued by the U.S. Department of Justice on May 17, 2012.*

**Abusive sexual contact:** Contact with any person without his or her consent; contact with a person who is unable to consent or refuse; and intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the penis, vagina, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of any person

**Custody:** When a person is under the power and control of an entity – the police, the juvenile justice system, the prison system or person – and is not free to leave

**Carnal knowledge:** Contact between the penis and the vagina or the penis and the anus including penetration of any sort

**Gender expression:** A person's expression of his/or gender identity, including appearance, dress, mannerisms, speech, and social interactions

**Gender identity:** Distinct from sexual orientation and refers to a person's internal, deeply felt sense of being male or female

**Gender non-conforming:** Gender characteristics and/or behaviors that do not conform to those typically associated with a person's biological sex

**Homosexuality:** Sexual, emotional, and/or romantic attraction to a person of the same sex

**Non-Consensual Sexual Acts:** Contact with any person without his or her consent, or with a person who is unable to consent or refuse; contact between the penis and the vagina or the penis and the anus including penetration, however slight; contact between the mouth and the penis, vagina, or anus; or penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person by a hand, finger, or other object

**Oral Sex:** Contact between the mouth and the penis, the mouth and the vagina or the mouth and the anus

**Questioning:** Active process in which a person explores her or his own sexual orientation and/or gender identity and questions the cultural assumptions that they are heterosexual and/or gender conforming



## **GLOSSARY (CONT'D)**

**Rape:** Includes all of the following actions: oral sodomy, sexual assault with an object, or sexual fondling of a person forcibly or against that person's will; forcibly or against that person's will where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of youth, temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity; achieved through exploitation of the fear or threat of physical violence or bodily injury

**Sexual Acts:** Carnal knowledge, oral sex, anal sex, rape, sexual assault with an object, sexual fondling

**Sexual Assault with an Object:** The use of any hand, finger, object, or other instrument to penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening of the body of another person.

**Sexual Fondling:** The touching of the private body parts of another person, including the penis, vagina, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks, for the purpose of sexual gratification

**Sexual Orientation:** Romantic and/or physical attraction to members of the same or different sex

**Sodomy:** Anal sex with a member of the same or opposite sex

**Staff sexual harassment:** Repeated verbal statements or comments of a sexual nature to a person in custody by an employee, volunteer, official visitor, or agency representative, including: demeaning references to gender or derogatory comments about body or clothing; or profane or obscene language or gestures

**Staff sexual misconduct:** Any behavior or act of a sexual nature directed toward a person in custody by an employee, volunteer, official visitor, or agency representative

**Transgender:** Person whose gender identity differs from their birth sex

**Transgender woman:**

Person whose birth sex was male but who understands herself to be, and desires to live her life as, a female

**Transgender man:**

Person whose birth sex was female but who understands himself to be, and desires to live his life as, a male

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

(Feel free to ask other additional questions)

1. What kind of challenges do you think Kayla faced prior to incarceration? During incarceration?
2. Was it appropriate for two COs to strip search Kayla when she first arrived? Why or why not? What are other ways to conduct the search?
3. Where should Kayla be housed: a female or a male unit or facility? What are the upsides and downsides of each?
4. Why do you think Kayla was targeted by male inmates? What can she do to protect herself? What can staff do to protect her? What about other inmates?
5. Why did Kayla hesitate to report her sexual abuse? Was this reasonable?
6. Where can Kayla get help to deal with depression? What can staff do to help someone who is depressed? What can other inmates do?
7. Did Dr. Moore have a duty to report Kayla's victimization even though she didn't?
8. Did Ms. Jones have a duty to report Kayla's victimization even though she didn't?



## **RESOURCES FOR INMATES**

*Space intended for agencies to add resources reflective of their specific location and type of agency*

*Examples include:*

- *Your 1-800 reporting hotline (if you have one)*
- *Information and procedure for reporting abuse*
- *Address and phone number of grievance officer or outside reporting mechanism such as an ombudsman*
- *Phone number and address for a rape crisis center in the area*

## NOTES

# NATIONAL PREA RESOURCE CENTER

**Notice of Federal Funding and Federal Disclaimer:**

This project was supported by Grant No. 2010-RP-BX-K001 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

