



## PRISON LAW OFFICE

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www.prisonlaw.com

### ***Your Responsibility When Using the Information Provided Below:***

*When putting this material together, we did our best to give you useful and accurate information because we know that people in prison often have trouble getting legal information. Unfortunately, we cannot give individual advice to everyone who asks for it. Additionally, the laws change often and can be looked at in different ways. We do not always have the resources to make changes to this material every time the law changes. If you use this pamphlet, it is your responsibility to make sure that the law has not changed and still applies to your situation. Most of the materials you need should be available in your institution's law library.*

### **SEXUAL ABUSE IN CALIFORNIA PRISONS ADDENDUM RE: CCWF AND CIW Updated March 2025**

This information is about an investigation, criminal and civil court decisions, and legislative reports regarding sexual abuse of people incarcerated at CCWF and CIW. We also have a general information packet on how to protect yourself if you have been sexually abused or are in danger of being sexually abused by CDCR staff or another person incarcerated in a CDCR prison. If we did not enclose that information, you can request it by writing to us at Prison Law Office, General Delivery, San Quentin, CA 94964. For people with internet access, that letter and other resources are available on the Prison Law Office website, [www.prisonlaw.com](http://www.prisonlaw.com).

#### **U.S. (Federal) Department of Justice Investigation**

In September 2024, the U.S. (federal) Department of Justice (DOJ) started a civil rights investigation into sexual abuse by staff at CCWF and CIW. The U.S. DOJ encourages people with relevant information to contact them. If you wish to do so, you may write to them at the below address, marking your envelope "Legal Mail" so that your letter is confidential and cannot be read by CDCR staff.

CA Prisons - CCWF and CIW  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Special Litigation Section – 4CON  
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

People incarcerated at CCWF and CIW can call the U.S. DOJ at 916-555-1111. This line is not monitored by CDCR. You should use this line only to provide information, not to seek help in an emergency. Your loved ones and others who are not incarcerated can also send email to the U.S. DOJ at [Community.CAWomensPrisons@usdoj.gov](mailto:Community.CAWomensPrisons@usdoj.gov) or call the U.S. DOJ at 888-392-9490.

If you need emergency help related to sexual abuse you can dial \*HELP# (\*4357#) on a phone or tablet from any CDCR institution to reach your local rape crisis center. You do not have to enter your PIN to place the call, which should be confidential and not monitored by CDCR. You

should also consider taking other steps to protect yourself and your rights that are described in our sexual abuse information packet.

### **Criminal and Civil Case Decisions**

In January 2025, a Madera County criminal case jury found a former CCWF correctional officer guilty of sexually assaulting nine people incarcerated at the prison. The assaults were said to have occurred between 2010 and 2022, when the officer worked at the prison. In October 2023, a separate civil lawsuit filed by six people incarcerated at CCWF, who alleged they were sexually assaulted by the same officer and that prison officials were negligent in allowing the assaults to happen, was settled for a reported total of \$3.7 million.<sup>1</sup>

### **Reports to the California Legislature**

California's 2023-2024 Budget Act provided resources for CDCR to create a Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Working Group and an Ambassador Program in partnership with the Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition. The Working Group consisted of staff from CDCR Female Offender Programs and Services (FOPS), advocacy groups, community-based organizations led by formerly incarcerated people, representatives from the ambassador groups, and people who have survived sexual assault in custody. It focused on the Central California Women's Facility (CCWF) and California Institution for Women (CIW) and spoke directly with people incarcerated at those institutions. In March 2024, the Working Group presented two reports to the Legislature, one from community groups and one from CDCR. The reports provided information about CDCR's response to recent sexual abuse reports and recommendations for improving the safety of people in women's-designated prisons.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Manoukian, Former Guard at California Women's Prison Found Guilty of 59 Counts of Sexual Abuse, KQED, Jan. 15, 2025, <https://www.kqed.org/news/12022075/former-guard-california-womens-prison-found-guilty-59-counts-sexual-abuse>.

<sup>2</sup> California Women's Prisons – Sexual Abuse Response and Prevention Working Group: Community Report to the Legislature (March 2024), [https://www.sisterwarriors.org/prison\\_sexualassault\\_report](https://www.sisterwarriors.org/prison_sexualassault_report); California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Report to the Legislature Sexual Assault Response and Prevention (March 2024), <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/california-department-of-corrections-and-rehabilitation-report-to-the-legislature-sexual-assault-response-and-prevention-march-2024/>