



# FAILING TO PROTECT AND SERVE: POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICIES TOWARDS TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

## Columbus Police Department

### Availability of Policy on Transgender Interactions ■

Department policies are readily available online, but fail to address how they apply to transgender individuals.

### Nondiscrimination Based on Gender Identity ■

Department policies prohibit biased policing based on “gender,” but fail to explicitly prohibit the use of gender identity or expression as a basis to stop, question, search, or arrest any individual, as a sole basis for initiating contact, or as evidence of a crime. Policies do not explicitly prohibit sexual harassment or use of language that is demeaning or derogatory. Policy does not prohibit asking invasive questions of transgender and gender-nonconforming people that are not relevant to the police interaction.

### Nondiscrimination Based on Sexual Orientation ■

Department policy prohibits profiling and other discriminatory policing based on sexual orientation, but fails to explicitly prohibit harassment based on sexual orientation.

### **Non-Binary Recognition** ■

Policy fails to mention individuals with non-binary gender identities, or explain how pronoun, search, or placement policies apply to them.

### **Use of Respectful Communication** ■

Policies fail to require the use of correct names and pronouns in interactions with members of the public.

### **Department Forms** ■

Policies do not address whether or how to record an arrestee's name, gender or pronouns.

### **Search Procedures** ■

Department policy requires officers to make an attempt to contact an officer of the "same sex" as the individual to perform the search. However, policy fails to provide guidelines for searching transgender individuals.

### **Transportation** ■

Policy only requires contacting dispatch and documenting mileage when transporting an individual of "the opposite sex," but fails to provide guidelines for transporting transgender individuals.

### **Officer Sexual Misconduct** ■

Department policies fail to clearly define and prohibit sexual misconduct on behalf of members of the Department, establish prevention or accountability mechanisms for officer sexual misconduct, or fully incorporate the PREA Lockup Standards.

### **Placement in Temporary Lockup** ■

Department does not have temporary holding facilities.

### **Access to Medical Care in Lockup** ■

Department does not have temporary holding facilities.

### **Removal of Appearance-Related Items** ■

Department policies do not address the removal of appearance related items.

### **Bathroom Use** ■

Department policy fails to prohibit police from monitoring public restroom use or address bathroom use in stations.

### **Use of Condoms as Evidence for Sex Work** ■

Policies fail to prohibit the confiscation or use of condoms as evidence in prostitution-related cases.



## **Trainings** ■

Department policies do not require training on interactions with transgender people as part of officer training.

## **Cooperation with Immigration** ■

Department policy requires members “arresting a suspected illegal immigrant” to contact ICE, and to cooperate with ICE warrants. However, Department policies clearly state that immigration status shall not be a matter of police action.

## **Civilian Oversight** ■



Jurisdiction lacks an independent civilian oversight body.

# About the National Center for Transgender Equality

The National Center for Transgender Equality advocates to change policies and society to increase understanding and acceptance of transgender people. In the nation's capital and throughout the country, NCTE works to replace disrespect, discrimination, and violence with empathy, opportunity, and justice.



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Recommended Citation:  
National Center for Transgender Equality. (2019). Failing to Protect and Serve: Police Department Policies Towards Transgender People. Available at: [transequality.org/police](http://transequality.org/police)

Published May 2019.

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