



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

Detroit Police Department (policy not available online)

Availability of Policy on Transgender Interactions ■

Department policies are readily available online, but fail to address how they apply to transgender individuals except for when determining placement.

Nondiscrimination Based on Gender Identity ■

Department policies 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. Policy does not explicitly prohibit harassment or use of language that is demeaning or derogatory to transgender people

Nondiscrimination Based on Sexual Orientation ■

Policies fail to provide explicit language prohibiting profiling, harassment, or other discrimination by members of the Department based on sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation.

Non-Binary Recognition ■

Policies fail to mention people with non-binary gender identities or how pronoun, search, or lockup 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 fail to address recording an arrestee's name, gender or pronoun.

Search Procedures ■

Search policy requires that detainees shall be searched by "a member of the same sex," but does not state how this applies to transgender people. (305.1- 4.4 Custodial Search)

Transportation ■

Policy only requires members to contact dispatch and document mileage when transporting female arrestees and fails to provide guidance for transporting transgender arrestees.

Officer Sexual Misconduct ■

Department policies fail to prohibit sexual misconduct by 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 policies require transgender detainees be placed in single cells separated from all other detainees.

Access to Medical Care in Lockup ■

Policy states that "all detainee prescription medications shall be dispensed and stored in compliance with department policy, based upon recommendations from a professional health care provider." However, policy fails to make clear that transgender individuals must be treated equally including with respect to hormone therapy. (305.5)

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.

Trainings ■■

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

Cooperation with Immigration ■■

Department policies fail to address immigration enforcement.

Civilian Oversight ■



The independent Board of Police Commissioners has the authority to investigate complaints, impose discipline, and produce annual reports. However, it is unclear if the Commission accepts anonymous complaints.

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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