



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

San Diego Police Department

Availability of Policy on Transgender Interactions ■

Department policies are readily available online, but do not address interactions with transgender individuals except for non-discrimination statements.

Nondiscrimination Based on Gender Identity ■

Department policies prohibit profiling, harassment, and other discrimination based on gender identity or expression. Policy prohibits asking invasive questions of transgender and gender-nonconforming people that are not relevant to the police interaction

Nondiscrimination Based on Sexual Orientation ■

Policies prohibit members from engaging in bias based policing and harassment based on sexual orientation.

Non-Binary Recognition ■■

Policies fail to mention people with non-binary gender identities or how policies apply to interactions with 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 recording an arrestee's name, gender or pronoun.

Search Procedures ■■

Department policy fails to set guidelines for searching transgender people, and to prohibit searches for gender determination.

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 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. Department policies do impose a general duty to report officer misconduct.

Placement in Temporary Lockup ■■

Department policies fail to address lock-up placement for transgender people.

Access to Medical Care in Lockup ■■

Policy fails to address medical care or access to medications generally.

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 does not have a clear or explicit policy regarding ICE notification or detainer requests. However, policy states that immigration status is not a matter of police action, and that police services will be readily available to all regardless of their immigration status

Civilian Oversight ■



The San Diego Community Review Board is an independent body that produces annual and semi-annual reports monitoring complaints against SDPD. However, The San Diego Community Review Board does not have the authority to conduct investigations or impose discipline, and does not investigate 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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