



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

Suffolk County, NY Police Department

Availability of Policy on Transgender Interactions ■

Limited policies are readily available on the Department website, but do not address interactions with transgender people. A larger collection of SCPD Rules and Procedures from 2009 were available through the NYCLU.

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. Policies do not explicitly prohibit harassment or derogatory language or invasive questions that are not relevant to a police interaction.

Nondiscrimination Based on Sexual Orientation ■

Policies prohibit members from engaging in discriminatory policing based on sexual orientation, but fails to provide explicit language prohibiting profiling and harassment.

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 ■

Policy does not address recording an arrestee's name, gender or pronouns.

Search Procedures ■

Search policy requires searches to be performed by employees of the "same sex" as the prisoner, but fails to specify guidelines for searching transgender arrestees.

Transportation ■

Policy requires members to contact dispatch at beginning and end of every transport and document mileage. However, policy fails to address transporting transgender arrestees in accordance with their gender identity.

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

Access to Medical Care in Lockup ■

Policy requires providing prisoners with medical assistance if requested. However, policy fails to make clear that transgender individuals must be treated equally including with respect to hormone medications

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 ■

Department does not have policies addressing the use of condoms as evidence for prostitution related offenses.

Trainings ■

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

Cooperation with Immigration ■

Department policy clearly 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. Additionally, the Department explicitly states that “arrestees shall not be detained solely pursuant to a request from ICE to hold the arrestee.”

Civilian Oversight ■

Jurisdiction lacks an independent civilian oversight body. All complaints are processed and investigated by the Internal Affairs Bureau within the Department.

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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