




**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Subject: Interactions With Trans Individuals	Number: GEN-18
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Issuing Authority: Chief Tyrone Parham	
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Amends or rescinds: N/A	
References: CALEA 1.2.8 ; 1.2.9 ; 72.5.1 , 72.8.3	

General Considerations and Guidelines

[1.2.9](#)

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the appropriate interaction with trans individuals who come into contact with the UMass Amherst Police Department. It is the policy of the UMass Amherst Police Department to treat all individuals with dignity, respect, and professionalism. Therefore, this policy shall be enforced in order to create mutual understanding, prevent discrimination and conflict, and ensure the appropriate treatment of trans individuals within the community.

Definitions

Chosen Name: Non-birth name that a trans individual uses in self-reference (this may or may not be the individual's legal name).

Dead Name: The legal name that a trans person does not use for themselves.

Gender describes the beliefs, feelings, and behaviors that a specific culture attributes to individuals based on their perceived sex. Gender includes:

- Gender assignment: the gender designation given to someone at birth
- Gender roles: the expectations imposed on someone based on their gender assignment
- Gender attribution: how others perceive someone's gender
- Gender identity: how someone defines their own gender
- Gender expression: how one chooses to express one's gender identity through behavior, clothing, hairstyle, voice, body characteristics, etc.

Trans people:

- Umbrella terms for individuals whose gender identity and/or expression is different from the gender assigned to them at birth.
- Trans people can include trans women and men, individuals with nonbinary genders, and others who cross or go beyond traditional gender categories.

Trans men: Individuals assigned female at birth who identify as male. A trans man should be addressed using he, him, and his, regardless of whether they have socially or medically transitioned.

Trans women: Individuals assigned male at birth who identify as female. A trans woman should be addressed using she, her, and hers, regardless of whether they have socially or medically transitioned.

Nonbinary gender, gender-nonconforming, and gender-expansive people:

- Umbrella terms for individuals who do not fit into traditional “male” and “female” gender categories.
- Includes individuals who identify as agender (as not having a gender), bigender, gender fluid, genderqueer (identifying as neither male nor female, as somewhere in between or beyond genders, or as a combination of genders), and various other gender identities.

Do not use the words “Female to Male (FTM)”, “Male to Female (MTF)”, and “transsexual”, as this language is considered outdated.

Procedures**Name Usage and Forms of Address:**

All officers shall address trans individuals by the individual’s chosen name (not their dead name), regardless of whether the individual has obtained legal recognition of the chosen name. Additionally, trans individuals shall be addressed using the titles and pronouns appropriate to their gender identity.

When referencing a trans woman, the pronouns her, she, and hers shall be used by police personnel. When referencing a trans man, the pronouns he, him, and his shall be used by police personnel. Some nonbinary individuals use nonbinary pronouns, such as they, them, and their, and they should be addressed with these pronouns. If there is any uncertainty as to which pronouns or titles are appropriate, then the officer shall respectfully ask the individual.

Calls for Service:**1.2.9**

All calls for service or complaints made by trans individuals will be investigated in the same manner as all other calls for service or complaints, and in full compliance with Department policies. Officers shall not fail to respond to a call for service based upon the gender identity or expression of the caller.

Stop and Frisk:

Standard procedures and practices shall be used when conducting searches and seizures of trans individuals (See [PAT-2 Search and Seizure](#) and [PAT-3 Stop, Frisk, and Threshold Inquiries](#)). These standard procedures and practices include treating a trans individual in a manner that is appropriate for the individual's gender identity.

Except when legally necessary, (e.g. issuance of a citation or effectuation of an arrest) officers shall not require proof of an individual's gender and shall not challenge an individual's gender identity. Searches or frisks shall not be used as a means of determining an individual's gender. Additionally, trans individuals shall not be subjected to more invasive search or frisk procedures than non-trans individuals.

Arrest and Detention**Transportation:**

Whenever possible and practical, a trans individual shall be transported separately from other arrestees. This policy is designed to ensure the trans individual's privacy, dignity, and safety.

Booking:

Normal booking procedures will be followed, according to Department policy ([PRI-3 Detainee Booking](#), [PRI-2 Detainee Inventory and Search](#)), when booking a trans individual, including those in protective custody and juveniles held in custody. During the booking process the Booking Officer shall include the individual's chosen name (i.e. the name that the individual uses in self-reference) either as the primary name or as the "also known as" (a.k.a.) name. However, the individual shall be booked under the name appearing on the individual's government-issued identification, as well as under the a.k.a. name when applicable.

If the individual does not have identification available, the Booking Officer shall use the chosen name as the primary name for booking purposes. The individual's birth name will be used only if it is the individual's legal name or is required by a legitimate law enforcement purpose, including but not limited to, determining whether an arrestee has a prior criminal record.

If during the booking process a trans individual requests to use the bathroom, an officer of the gender requested by the trans individual shall escort the individual to the appropriate gender-assigned bathroom.

Searches:

[1.2.8](#) [72.5.1](#) [72.8.3](#)

Whenever possible and practical, a search of a trans individual will be performed by officers of the gender requested. Two officers of the gender requested by the individual will be present during the search. If two officers of the requested gender are not available, the search shall nonetheless be performed by two available officers. If the individual is a trans man or trans woman and does not express a preference regarding the gender of the searching officers, then two officers of the same gender as the trans individual's gender expression will conduct the search (e.g. when a trans man does not express a preference, then two male officers will conduct the search). *Optional form ([SF-62 Statement of Search Preference Form](#)) is available for officers involved with searching a trans detainee who has indicated a preference for what gender officer they would prefer to be searched by.*

Conditions during Holding:

Whenever possible and practical, a trans person shall be held in an individual cell without other prisoners. The Booking Officer and Shift Supervisor shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that the trans individual is held separately from other prisoners, including inquiring as to availability in other stations (i.e House of Correction, Amherst PD, etc).

Instances in which a trans individual is in need of medical attention shall be handled in the same manner as any other individual requiring medical attention in accordance with Department policy ([PRI-5 Medical Care of Detainees](#)).