

transgender case guide



Terminology and References

As a result of the recent outbreak of violence against members of the Transgender Communities, the following information is being provided to assist officers, managers and command staff in dealing with cases involving the Transgender community.

Definitions

Transgender: An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from the sex they were assigned at birth. The term may include but is not limited to: transsexuals, intersex people, cross-dressers, and other gender-variant people. Transgender people can be female-to-male (FTM) or male-to-female (MTF). Use the descriptive term (transgender, transsexual, cross-dresser, FTM or MTF) preferred by the transgender person. Transgender people may or may not choose to alter their bodies hormonally and/or surgically.

Gender Identity: One's personal sense of being a man or a woman (or a boy or girl.) For transgender people, their birth-assigned sex and their own internal sense of gender identity do not match.

Gender Expression: The means by which people express their gender identity. Gender Expression includes personal choices in clothing, grooming, makeup and jewelry.

Names and Pronoun Usage

We encourage you to ask transgender people which pronoun and/or name they would like you to use. If it is not possible to ask the person which pronoun and/or name he or she prefers, use the pronoun/name that is consistent with the person's appearance and gender expression. Also, do not put quotation marks around gender pronouns, suggesting that the pronoun does not reflect the person's true sex. In reports, the individual's legal name and sex should be used, however, when possible and appropriate, a notation should be made on the report, which indicates the individual's preferred name, as well as the fact they are a member of the transgender community.

Note: Some jurisdictions legally approve a sex designation, without the completion of genital surgery, and that designation shall be used.

May 27, 2008

GLLU factsheet

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