

	STAMFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT  POLICY AND PROCEDURE GENERAL ORDER	Distribution  ALL PERSONNEL	General Order Number  <b>5.24</b>
		Original Issue Date  <b>04/05/22</b>	Effective Date  <b>04/13/22</b>
Order Title: <b>APPROPRIATE TREATMENT OF DETAINED TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS</b>		Accreditation Standard:  POSTC:	Section  5
		Section Title PATROL FUNCTIONS	
Rescinds:		<b>Timothy Shaw, Chief of Police</b>	

*This General Order is for departmental use only and does not apply in any criminal or civil proceeding. This General Order should not be construed as creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third party claims. Violations of this General Order will only form the basis for departmental administrative sanctions. Violations of law will form the basis for civil and criminal sanctions in a recognized judicial setting.*

## **I. PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this general order is to establish guidelines for Stamford Police Department officers to ensure appropriate treatment of transgender individuals during the course of their duties.

## **II. POLICY:**

The policy of the Stamford Police Department is to treat all individuals with dignity, respect, and professionalism. Officers shall always abide by the Stamford Police Department's Mission and Core Values when interacting directly or indirectly with transgender individuals.

## **III. DEFINITIONS:**

While these general definitions are largely accepted by much of the community, the exact definitions of these words can vary from person to person. These definitions are supplied for your general reference only.

Adopted Name: Is the non-birth name that a transgender individual uses, in self-reference. (This may or may not be the individual's legal name.)

Cross-dresser: While anyone may wear clothes associated with a different sex, the term *cross-dresser* is typically used to refer to men who occasionally wear clothes, makeup, and accessories culturally associated with women. Those men typically identify as heterosexual. This activity is a form of gender expression and not done for entertainment purposes. Cross-dressers do not wish to permanently change their sex or live full-time as women. (*Replaces the term "transvestite".*)

Gender Expression: External appearance of one's gender identity, which may or may not conform to socially defined behaviors and characteristics typically associated with being either masculine or feminine.

Gender Identity: One's innermost concept of self as masculine, feminine, a blend of both, or neither – how individuals perceive themselves and what they call themselves. One's gender identity can be the same as or different from the gender typically associated with their sex assigned at birth.

Gender Transition: The process by which some individuals more closely align their outward appearance with their internal gender identity. Some individuals may socially transition, whereby they might begin dressing, using names and pronouns, and/or be socially recognized as another gender. Others may undergo physical transitions in which they modify their bodies through medical interventions.

Sex: The classification of people's bodies as male or female, usually as assigned at birth.

Transgender: An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from what is typically associated with the sex they were assigned at birth. Being transgender does not imply any specific sexual orientation. Therefore, transgender people may identify as straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, etc.

Transsexual: An older term that originated in the medical and psychological communities. Still preferred by some people who have permanently changed, or seek to change, their bodies through medical interventions (including but not limited to hormones and/or surgeries). While some members of the transgender community may still use the term "transsexual", **this term may be offensive to some individuals**. Because many transgender people do not identify as transsexual and prefer the word *transgender*, it is best to ask which term an individual prefers.

#### IV. PROCEDURES:

##### A. Forms of Address:

Officers shall address transgender individuals by the individual's adopted name. This is true even if the individual has not received legal recognition of the adopted name.

##### B. Identification of Individuals on Official Records and Reports:

1. To minimize inconsistency or confusion, any individual listed on any official Departmental reports shall be identified in a manner which is consistent with their current government-issued identification card. If the individual uses an adopted name, that name should be listed as any other alias would be.

C. Investigative Detention/Terry Stop:

1. Officers shall continue to use standard practices and procedures when conducting “Investigative Detentions” and “Pat downs,” and shall abide by all Departmental policies and procedures.
2. If a transgender individual makes a request to be searched by an officer of a specific gender, that request shall be honored if it is reasonably possible to do so. This does not apply to a non-invasive pat down search for officer safety reasons.
3. Remember: Officer and public safety is the first priority. If an officer of the same gender is not immediately available and it is imperative that an immediate search be conducted, any officer may conduct that search.

5.24 Revision History

April 13, 2022 (New)- Chief TS