

<b>GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS</b> <b>Standard Operating Procedures</b>		
<b>Policy Name:</b> Management and Treatment of Offenders Diagnosed with Gender Dysphoria		
<b>Policy Number:</b> 507.04.68	<b>Effective Date:</b> 04/07/15	<b>Page Number</b> 1 of 2
<b>Authority:</b>  Bryson / Smith	<b>Originating Division:</b>  Operations, Planning and Training Division	<b>Access Listing:</b>  Level I: All Access

I. Introduction and Summary:

The Department will provide constitutionally appropriate medical and mental health treatment to offenders diagnosed with Gender Dysphoria and similar conditions.

II. Authority:

Estelle v. Gamble, 429 U.S. 97 (1976).

Formerly SOP #VH47-0006.

III. Definitions:

**Gender Dysphoria** refers to the range of diagnostic criteria referenced in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-V), particularly, personal identification with a gender other than the assigned gender. Gender Dysphoria includes conditions previously referred to as Gender Identity Disorder, Transsexual, Transgender, or other similar conditions.

IV. Statement of Policy and Applicable Procedures:

Offenders with a possible diagnosis of Gender Dysphoria, including offenders who assert they have Gender Dysphoria, will receive thorough medical and mental health evaluations from appropriately licensed and qualified medical and mental health professionals. The evaluation will include an assessment of the offender's treatment and life experiences prior to incarceration as well as experiences during incarceration (including hormone therapy, completed or in-process surgical interventions, real life experience consistent with the offender's gender identity, private expressions that conform to the preferred gender and counseling).

If a diagnosis of Gender Dysphoria is reached, a treatment plan will be developed that promotes the physical and mental health of the patient. The development of the treatment plan is not solely dependent on services provided or the offender's life experiences prior to incarceration. Treatment plans will be reviewed regularly and updated as necessary. Current, accepted standards of care will be used as a reference for developing the treatment plan.

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Each treatment plan or denial of treatment must be approved by the Statewide Medical Director and Statewide Mental Health Director. Any hormone therapy must be requested through the non-formulary review process.

In summary, offenders in the custody of the Department with a possible diagnosis of Gender Dysphoria will receive a current individualized assessment and evaluation. Treatment options will not be precluded solely due to level of services received, or lack of services, prior to incarceration.

V. Attachments:

None.