



The Center for HIV  
Law and Policy  
65 Broadway, Suite 832  
New York, NY 10006  
212-430-6733  
[www.hivlawandpolicy.org](http://www.hivlawandpolicy.org)

The Center for HIV Law and Policy is a national resource and advocacy organization working to advance the rights of people affected by HIV. We combine an online HIV Policy Resource Bank, a creative national advocacy agenda, and case assistance focused on systems and institutions with significant impact on marginalized communities.

For information about state policies and advocacy on sexual health care for youth in state custody, contact Pepis Rodriguez at [jrodriguez@hivlawandpolicy.org](mailto:jrodriguez@hivlawandpolicy.org), call 212.430.6733, or visit [www.hivlawandpolicy.org/initiatives/teen-sense](http://www.hivlawandpolicy.org/initiatives/teen-sense).

## MODEL POLICY: TEEN SENSE

# Sexual Health Care for Youth in State Custody

To appropriately address the sexual health rights of youth in the state's care, it shall be the policy of [this agency/jurisdiction] to ensure that youth in detention, foster care or other government-operated or –regulated youth facilities shall receive comprehensive, medically accurate, LGBTQ-affirming, sexual health care. Principles of harm-reduction, trauma-informed care, and youth development and empowerment shall be foundational to such health care, which shall include, but not be limited to, provision of the following services:

- Health screenings and treatment addressing physical and mental health, acknowledging the potential for histories of abuse or sex considered to be “high-risk,” such as survival sex and sex under the influence of alcohol or other substances;
- Counseling and services for prevention, testing, and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV, to include access to condoms and other current tools for disease prevention (e.g., pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP));
- Counseling and treatment related to pregnancy;
- Gender-affirming services and care for transgender and gender non-conforming (TGNC) youth;
- Discharge planning related to sexual and reproductive health, including referrals to LGBTQ-affirming sexual and reproductive health care providers, and prophylaxis such as condoms and PrEP;
- Safe living and learning environments for all young people, regardless of sexual orientation, gender expression, or gender identity (SOGIE), including:
  - Adult staff and instructors demonstrating LGBTQ-affirming attitudes and cultural competence;
  - Health care providers demonstrating LGBTQ-specific medical competence and an ability to recognize and respond to the individual health care needs of all youth;
- Written information, group and individual counseling, and open discussion for foster youth development, critical thinking, and informed decision-making on the following areas:
  - Anatomy, reproduction and pregnancy, reproductive choice, contraception, and safer-sex practices
  - STI and HIV transmission, prevention, and care;
  - The diversity of human sexuality, gender identity, and gender expression;
  - Harassment, discrimination, and violence based on SOGIE, including sexual and intimate partner violence;
  - Healthy relationships, recognition of abuse, and individual autonomy and empowerment;
  - Mental health that addresses self-harm, drug use, and harm reduction skills.