



The Center for HIV
Law and Policy
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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, call 212.430.6733, or visit www.hivlawandpolicy.org/initiatives/teen-sense.

MODEL POLICY: TEEN SENSE

Staff Training to Uphold the Sexual Health Rights of Youth in State Custody

1. As part of the commitment to ensuring the sexual health rights of youth in the state's custody or care, it is the policy of [this agency/jurisdiction] to provide all staff in government-operated and –regulated youth facilities with training to respect, protect, and fulfill the sexual health rights of all youth in their care, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression (SOGIE).
2. Youth facility staff at every level, including caseworkers, medical service providers, security personnel, and probation officers, shall receive regular training on the sexual health rights of young people, including the right to:
 - a. Free expression of their SOGIE, including clothing choice to reflect their gender identity;
 - b. Comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care services;
 - c. Bodily autonomy and integrity;
 - d. Safety, including freedom from all forms of discrimination, harassment, and violence; and
 - e. Provision of guidance and tools to aid in the development of the skills and healthy attitudes and behaviors to meaningfully exercise these rights.
3. Staff training shall also reflect the need for universal staff competence in advising and communicating and interacting with all youth. At the conclusion of training, staff shall be able to:
 - a. Understand the meaning, variety, and fluidity of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression;
 - b. Identify the effects of stigma and SOGIE-related and disability-related discrimination on the health of all youth;
 - c. Understand and address evidence of SOGIE-based bias in staff interactions with LGBTQ youth;
 - d. Recognize their responsibility to maintain an atmosphere of safety and affirmation, and understand the conduct requirements that satisfy that responsibility;
 - e. Apply skills that address the effect of SOGIE-based bias on all youth;
 - f. Ensure access to gender- and LGBTQ-affirming services, and activities;
 - g. Abide by relevant laws and agency policies established to support and protect all youth; and
 - h. Explain procedures for reporting and responding to youth and staff complaints regarding conduct that is in conflict with these policies.