

Transgender Care

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is committed to protecting vulnerable populations. ICE has established a care program for those in custody who identify as transgender.

In 2015, ICE issued a Transgender Care Memorandum, building upon previous directives from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and ICE's 2014 directive on sexual abuse and assault prevention intervention.

ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) applies a comprehensive approach to its transgender care program, covering multiple aspects of the detention process and providing additional guidance on the placement and care of transgender adults in detention settings.

Transgender detainees have continued access to mental and gender-affirming health care provided by qualified medical professionals.

Key Training

- ERO leverages multiple resources to ensure employees are appropriately trained on the unique needs of adult transgender detainees — including a video and webinar training on best practices in medical care.
- ERO has developed several aids to help ICE officers and contracted staff identify an individual's gender identity early in the custodial life cycle — including a transgender care quick reference guide and questionnaire to facilitate effective communication.

Program Highlights

- **Self-identification** — A detained citizen may self-identify as transgender at custody intake or at any time while in detention. A detainee's self-identification as transgender is treated as sensitive information and only shared with others who have a need to know.
- **Housing** — Housing and programming decisions for detainees who self-identify as transgender are individualized on a case-by-case basis and reassessed at least twice each year. Housing placement decisions of transgender detainees are not made solely on identity documents or physical anatomy. Options include dedicated housing units for transgender women or general population by sex assigned at birth or by gender identity.
- **Local field support** — Each ERO Field Officer Director designates an employee at the supervisory level to serve as an LGBTQ field liaison and local resource for ERO officers.
- **Centralized monitoring** — Updated ICE data systems capture an individual's self-identification as transgender, enabling ICE to quickly identify the number and location of transgender detainees housed nationwide and to better monitor transgender cases.

Learn more about ICE's [detention standards](#).