

<p style="text-align: center;">STATE OF VERMONT AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS</p>	<p>Title: Gender Responsivity</p>		<p style="text-align: right;">Page 1 of 2</p>												
<p>Chapter: Correctional Services</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"># 435</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NEW</p>													
<p>Attachments, Forms & Companion Documents: Any attachments, forms, and companion documents are available on the DOC's website.</p>															
<p>Local Procedure(s) Required: Yes Applicability: All staff (including contractors and volunteers) Security Level: "B" – Anyone may have access to this document.</p>															
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="4">Approved:</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">SIGNED</td> <td style="text-align: center;">03/15/2017</td> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">03/30/2017</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Lisa Menard, Commissioner</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Date Signed</td> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Date Effective</td> </tr> </table>				Approved:				SIGNED	03/15/2017	03/30/2017		Lisa Menard, Commissioner	Date Signed	Date Effective	
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PURPOSE

This directive outlines the Vermont Department of Corrections' (DOC) general approach, policy, and philosophy in incorporating gender responsive practices into the supervision of offenders. It also outlines the DOC's intent to incorporate the principles of gender responsivity throughout its practices.

PHILOSOPHY

The DOC recognizes the research surrounding gender responsivity in the criminal justice system and that gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, and other factors affect how an offender is supervised. This research finds that gender makes a difference in terms of an offender's profile and pathway to crime. It identifies that gender plays a role in how offenders respond to incarceration and community supervision.

REFERENCES

Gender-Responsive Strategies for Women Offenders; A Summary of Research, Practice and Guiding Principles for Women Offenders, NIC, 2003.

A Theoretical Basis for Gender-Responsive Strategies in Criminal Justice, Bloom, Owen and Covington, 2002.

POLICY

The DOC acknowledges the differences in offender pathways into the criminal justice system. In this recognition, the DOC utilizes gender responsive principles to inform and direct its classification, supervision, and risk and needs reducing services for all offenders.¹

The DOC recognizes the importance of the family as a vital participant in the offender's success and will reinforce a family focused culture for offenders. Through encouraging a family focused culture, the DOC will encourage contact and collaboration with support systems when it is determined safe to do so.

The DOC recognizes the following key principles of gender responsiveness:

- a. An effective system for female offenders is structured differently than that for male offenders.
- b. Gender-responsive policy and practice targets pathways to criminality by providing effective interventions that address three central issues: trauma and violence, substance abuse, and economic marginality.
- c. Correctional sanctions and interventions consider the degree of harm created by the typical offense pattern of the offender recognizing the role of gender and how it relates to harm done.
- d. Gender-responsive policy and practice considers relationships, especially with children, and their roles in delivering both sanctions and interventions in the community.
- e. Community services are essential to a gender-responsive correctional system.
- f. All offenders, regardless of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity, shall be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.
- g. The DOC recognizes the individualized needs of each offender, including their physical and emotional well-being and safety.
- h. It is the responsibility of DOC to place all inmates in the least restrictive environment necessary to ensure safety and provide the inmate with equal access to facility services while also ensuring the safety and security of everyone within the facility and the facility itself.

¹ State of Washington Department of Corrections Policy on Gender Responsiveness.