

The Office of the Corrections Ombuds urges the Department of Corrections to halt its policy revision process until the integrity of its stakeholding efforts can be demonstrated to incarcerated individuals, the public, and this office.

Comments Submitted 2/7/2023

The Office of the Corrections Ombuds supports the Department of Correction's efforts to improve the DOC 490.700 Transgender, Intersex, and/or Non-Binary Housing and Supervision Policy.

DIRECTIVE:

I.B

Instead of "preferred pronouns," the OCO suggests using the word "pronouns" or the term "correct pronouns." The term "preferred pronouns" is being phased out across Washington State government documents.

B. All employees/contract staff/volunteers will address individuals by their preferred pronoun or their last name per DOC 100.500 Non-Discrimination for Individuals.

I.E

The OCO urges the department to clarify how these records will be destroyed/deleted when the person is no longer under the jurisdiction of the department.

E. The Transgender Settlement Administrator will maintain a record in a secure imaging system of incarcerated individuals under the Department's jurisdiction who identify as transgender and/or non-binary or are intersex.

V.B. 2. a.

The OCO suggests DOC 320.255 Restrictive Housing Reviews be documented in the Custody Facility Plan (CFP).

a. Placement in restrictive housing will be used as care and separation and not as a punitive/disciplinary measure. Placement will adhere to expectations in DOC 320.255 Restrictive Housing and be reviewed every 30 days by the PREA Compliance Manager.