



March 4, 2025

VIA ONLINE PORTAL

Georgia Department of Corrections
300 Patrol Road
Forsyth, GA 31029
Via Online Portal

Re: Open Records Request

Dear Records Custodian:

Pursuant to the Georgia Open Records Law (O.C.G.A. §§ 50-18-70 et seq.), American Oversight makes the following request for records.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) produce the following within three business days:

For all parts of this request, please provide all responsive records from February 1, 2024, through the date the request is received.

1. All formal or informal guidance, recommendations, or directives created by or issued to GDC regarding the provision of gender-affirming care for incarcerated individuals as described in Policy No. 507.04.68, "Management and Treatment of Transgender Offenders."¹
2. All complaints and/or dissent memoranda, including, but not limited to grievance or ethics complaints, submitted to the relevant offices of your agency and containing any of the key terms listed below. Responsive records include, but are not limited to, any grievances submitted via the GDC Statewide Grievance Procedure.²

Key Terms:

- a. Trans
- b. Transgender
- c. GAC
- d. Gender

¹ Ga. Dep't of Corrs., Policy No. 507.04.68, Management and Treatment of Transgender Offenders, Standard Operating Procedures, <https://public.powerdms.com/GADOC/documents/106405/> (Feb. 1, 2022).

² Ga. Dep't of Corrs., Policy No. 227.02, Statewide Grievance Procedure, Standard Operating Procedures, <https://public.powerdms.com/GADOC/documents/105711> (May 10, 2019).



- e. Hormone
- f. “medical care”
- g. “affirming care”
- h. Dysphoria
- i. Surgery

To be clear, American Oversight is **not** asking your agency to release the names of any individuals or offenders who have submitted responsive documents and does not object to withholding the name of any individual expressing consent.

3. Records reflecting any and all recommendations for resolution submitted to the Grievance Coordinator by GDC staff in response to the complaints and/or grievances responsive to part 2.
4. Records sufficient to identify the number of Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) complaints, whether official or unofficial, submitted to the relevant offices in your agency by anyone detained by GDC. To the extent that the GDC maintains aggregated information, such as spreadsheets or database records that can be readily exported to spreadsheets, such documents would be responsive to this request.

Please notify American Oversight of any anticipated fees or costs in excess of \$100 prior to incurring such costs or fees.

Guidance Regarding the Search & Processing of Requested Records

In connection with its request for records, American Oversight provides the following guidance regarding the scope of the records sought and the search and processing of records:

- Please search all locations and systems likely to have responsive records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics.
- In conducting your search, please understand the terms “record,” “document,” and “information” in their broadest sense, to include any written, typed, recorded, graphic, printed, or audio material of any kind. We seek records of any kind, including electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, and photographs, as well as letters, emails, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations or discussions.
- Our request for records includes any attachments to those records or other materials enclosed with those records when they were previously transmitted. To the extent that an email is responsive to our request, our request includes all prior messages sent or received in that email chain, as well as any attachments to the email.

- Please search all relevant records or systems containing records regarding agency business. Do not exclude records regarding agency business contained in files, email accounts, or devices in the personal custody of your officials, such as personal email accounts or text messages. Records of official business conducted using unofficial systems or stored outside of official files are subject to the Open Records Act.³
- In the event some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please disclose any reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the requested records. If a request is denied in whole, please state specifically why it is not reasonable to segregate portions of the record for release.
- Please take appropriate steps to ensure that records responsive to this request are not deleted by the agency before the completion of processing for this request. If records potentially responsive to this request are likely to be located on systems where they are subject to potential deletion, including on a scheduled basis, please take steps to prevent that deletion, including, as appropriate, by instituting a litigation hold on those records.

If you have any questions regarding how to construe this request for records or believe that further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to American Oversight, please do not hesitate to contact American Oversight to discuss this request. American Oversight welcomes an opportunity to discuss its request with you before you undertake your search or incur search or duplication costs. By working together at the outset, American Oversight and your agency can decrease the likelihood of costly and time-consuming litigation in the future.

Where possible, please provide responsive material in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive material in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive. Please send any responsive material being sent by mail to American Oversight, 1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255, Washington, DC 20005. If it will accelerate release of responsive records to American Oversight, please also provide responsive material on a rolling basis.

Conclusion

American Oversight is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with the mission to promote transparency in government, to educate the public about government activities, and to ensure the accountability of government officials. American Oversight uses the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. American Oversight also makes materials it gathers available on its public

³ O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70(b)(2).

website and promotes their availability on social media platforms, such as Facebook and X (formerly Twitter).⁴

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with you on this request. If you do not understand any part of this request, have any questions, or foresee any problems in fully releasing the requested records, please contact Julia Waddles at records@americanoversight.org or (219) 335-3025.

Sincerely,

/s/ Julia Waddles
Julia Waddles
on behalf of
American Oversight

⁴ American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 95,600 followers on X (formerly Twitter). American Oversight, Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/> (last visited Feb. 20, 2025); American Oversight (@weareoversight), X (formerly Twitter), <https://x.com/weareoversight> (last visited Feb. 20, 2025).