

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Standard Operating Procedures

Policy Name: Identification of Offenders with a History of Physical or Sexual Abuse

Policy Number: 508.17

Effective Date: 12/26/2019

Page Number: 1 of 2

Authority:
Commissioner

Originating Division:
Health Services Division
(Mental Health)

Access Listing:
Level I: All Access

I. Introduction and Summary:

It is the policy of the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) to identify, refer and treat offenders who are in need of mental health services due to a sexual or physical abuse history.

II. Authority:

A. GDC Standard Operating Procedures (SOPS): 508.22 Mental Health Management of Suspected Sexual Abuse, Contact or Harassment; 507.04.84 Medical Management of Suspected Sexual Abuse (Females); and 507.04.91 Medical Management of Suspected Sexual Assault, Abuse or Harassment (Males).

III. Definitions:

A. **Specially Trained Counselor** - Any mental health counselor, or licensed clinical consultant (psychiatrist, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), psychologist, social worker, counselor) who has successfully completed the Georgia Department of Corrections Sexual Assault Counseling Training Program or who has a comparable combination of training and experience approved by the Statewide Mental Health Program Supervisor/designee.

IV. Statement of Policy and Applicable Procedures:

- A. During the initial screening procedure, offenders will be assessed for a history of victimization by physical, and/or sexual abuse;
- B. If an offender reports a positive history of abuse and is in need of mental health services, that offender will be referred to a Specially Trained Counselor in the area of abuse and informed of treatment options;
- C. If an offender reports a positive history but does not wish to receive services, the offender will be informed that they can make a request at a later date;
- D. It will be the responsibility of the Mental Health Unit Manager to ensure there is a sufficient number of trained Specially Trained Counselors in the area of physical and sexual abuse. In the absence of a Specially Trained Counselor, a psychologist can provide individual therapy;

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- E. It will be the responsibility of the Mental Health Unit Manager to ensure there are ample mental health programs (e.g., group(s) for trauma victims that could be facilitated by mental health counselors privileged to conduct the group(s));
- F. Mental health treatment programs should include but not be limited to programs for those impacted by:
 - 1. Childhood physical or sexual abuse;
 - 2. Battered spouses; and
 - 3. Rape victims.
- G. Offenders at any time can request evaluation for treatment due to a history of abuse.

V. Attachments:

None.

VI. Record Retention of Forms Relevant to this Policy:

None.