



THE PRIDE JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER
The National Resource Center on Justice-Involved LGBTQ2S+ Youth

Supporting LGBTQ2S+ Families Tip Sheet

When working with LGBTQ2S+ parents and families of youth in the juvenile justice system, it's essential to ensure that their rights and needs are respected and that their unique circumstances are taken into account. This tip sheet provides several steps that juvenile justice providers should follow.

By following these steps, juvenile justice providers can help create an environment that is inclusive, respectful, and supportive of LGBTQ2S+ parents and family members of youth in the justice system, by working to ensure that they receive fair and just treatment within the system.

Cultural Competency Training	Create Inclusive Policies	Respect Stated Names and Pronouns
Ensure all staff members receive training on LGBTQ2S+ cultural competency to better understand the unique challenges and experiences of LGBTQ2S+ parents/families.	Develop and implement policies that explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression in all aspects of the juvenile justice system.	Respect and use the names and pronouns that individuals request, even if they differ from their legal documents. Do not refer to them as only “mom,” “dad,” “sister,” “brother,” “grandma,” “grandpa,” etc. but by the name or title they request.

Provide Safe Spaces	Respect Parent-Child Relationships	Culturally Sensitive Screening and Assessment
<p>Designate safe spaces within your facilities where LGBTQ2S+ parents and family members can express their identities openly without fear of discrimination or harassment.</p>	<p>Recognize and honor the parent-child relationships of LGBTQ2S+ parents, and the familial bonds of LGBTQ2S+ family members. Acknowledge that they may face unique family dynamics and challenges.</p>	<p>Use gender-neutral and LGBTQ2S+-inclusive language in assessment forms and intake interviews. Tailor assessments to consider LGBTQ2S+ parents' and family members' unique needs and vulnerabilities. Don't make assumptions about what someone's family looks like.</p>

Confidentiality	Access to LGBTQ2S+ Support Services	Regular Review and Evaluation
<p>Guarantee the confidentiality of LGBTQ2S+ parents' and family members identities and circumstances. Disclose information only on a need-to-know basis.</p>	<p>Connect LGBTQ2S+ parents and family members to LGBTQ2S+ affirming support organizations, legal resources, and counseling services.</p>	<p>Continuously assess and revise policies and procedures to ensure they remain inclusive and non-discriminatory. Seek input from LGBTQ2S+ parents and family members and advocacy groups to inform these changes.</p>



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