

CHANGING BIRTH CERTIFICATES



What you can change

A number of the agencies will only change your records if you have had gender reassignment surgery. In other cases, however, it may be possible to change your identity documents if you haven't had surgery. This fact sheet applies to adults who want to change their identity documents. This means people aged eighteen years or over. If a child wishes to change their documents it is important that they seek legal advice.

If you were born in N.S.W. and have had gender reassignment surgery, you can apply to have your birth certificate amended to reflect your correct gender. The new birth certificate will not show that you have changed your gender, but there will be a note on your new certificate that says your birth was "previously registered in another name". Your birth will be registered in the current year showing the new sex. Access to your original birth record is restricted by legislation, but can be accessed under certain circumstances.

birth certificates

Amending your birth certificate

Other than you, only the following people can apply for your original birth certificate:

- any children you have;
- the executor or administrator of your estate; Your parent(s);
- your spouse of former spouse; or
- an officer from the following law enforcement agencies:
 - The N.S.W. Police Force;
 - Police forces of other Australian states or territories and the Australian Federal Police; The N.S.W. and Australian Crime Commission;



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To apply, you must be over 18 years old; and have undergone gender reassignment surgery.

This is defined as:

A surgical procedure involving the alteration of a person's reproductive organs carried out: (for the purposes of assisting a person to be considered to be a member of the opposite sex, or to correct or eliminate ambiguities relating to the sex of the person. Your application must include statutory declarations from two medical practitioners, confirming that gender reassignment surgery has occurred.

The cost for registering a change of sex with the N.S.W. Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (B.D.M.) is \$135.00, plus postage and handling fee. An application usually takes fifteen working days to process. You will need to provide current identification. A list of the identification documents you need can be found on the N.S.W. Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages Website, [here](#).

You can apply to the N.S.W. Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages to change your name if you are over eighteen years old and;

- you were born in N.S.W. or your birth was registered in N.S.W.; or
- you are an Australian citizen or permanent resident who is ordinarily a resident of N.S.W.

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You should know that it is an offence to change your name with the intention to deceive someone. You are not allowed to change your name to:

- something that is obscene or offensive;
- something that could not practically be used;
- something that resembles an official title; or
- something that is against the public interest.

The cost for registering a change of name is \$195, plus postage and handling. An application will take five working days to process. You will also need to provide some current identification. A list of the identification documents you need can be found [here](#). The application form to change your birth certificate (in P.D.F. format and requiring Adobe Acrobat Reader to view) can be found on the N.S.W. Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages Website [here](#).

change of name by repute or usage

You can also change your name without taking any formal steps. Once you have used, and become known by, the new name, the law will recognise it. But you should be aware that it may be harder to change your other identity documents if you don't have documents to prove that you have changed your name.

CONNECT WITH US

psychological services
victim of crime advocacy
youth and family support
information and referrals
counselling
advocacy
groups
accomodation
street outreach
case management
speech pathology
needle syringe program
HIV and Hep C testing (DBS)

The Gender Centre is committed to developing and providing services and activities in NSW which enhance the ability of people exploring their gender identity to make informed choices. We offer a wide range of services to gender explorers, their partners, family and friends in NSW. We provide:

P: 02 9519 7599 or 02 9569 2399

E: reception@gendercentre.org.au

W: gendercentre.org.au

Office: 41-43 Parramatta Rd
Annandale 2038

THE GENDER
THE CENTRE
INC