

DOCUMENTS OF IDENTITY



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For transgender people, there can be a range of identity documents that you may want to change so that they properly reflect your gender and name. Here are some of the most common areas where people may want to amend their documents.

Note: 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.

birth certificates

Amending your birth certificate

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.



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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;
 - The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions of N.S.W.,
 - or another Australian State or Territory, or
 - the Commonwealth; or Independent Commission Against Corruption.

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](#).

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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.

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 on the N.S.W. Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages Website. 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.

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.

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passport

Any one who is eligible for an Australian Passport is able to update the gender marker on their passport to F (female), M (male) or X (unspecified, or non-binary). To Do this you will need:

- either a statement from a registered medical practitioner or
- psychologist indicating you have had or are receiving treatment for gender transition on this [form](#);
- or wish to be identified as X on this form. Or;
- Your birth certificate showing your corrected gender. AND;
- Other documentations and requirements found here or here for a [minor](#)

To update the name recorded in your passport you will need:

- Your birth certificate showing your updated name;
- Or a change of name certificate issued by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriage. Find information on BDM changes [here](#).

please be aware

Not all countries will accept a documents of identity as valid.

Some countries might view a document of identity as suspicious, and might delay or harass you; Some countries do not accept an X marker as valid.

Please visit [Smart Traveller](#) for advice on countries where your documentation might not be recognised.

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if you were born overseas

To get a new passport, you will need to provide D.F.A.T. with a revised citizenship certificate that records your correct gender, or some other formal evidence from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship that recognises that your gender has been changed.

further information

The Gender Centre Inc. Phone: **(02) 9519 7599**

Inner City Legal Centre Phone: **1800 244 481**

Australian Passport Information Service Phone: **131 232**

driver's licence

For a name change to your driver's licence, you need to submit form 1021, [here](#) or pick from an R.T.A. office.

You will also need to provide one of the following identity documents:

- A Change of Name Certificate issued by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages;
- or A birth certificate showing your name at birth and your new name.

You also need to provide the R.T.A. with other documents to prove your identity. A list of these documents can be found on the R.T.A. website, [here](#). You should be aware that the R.T.A. will keep a record of your old name on their system as an alias.

To change your gender marker you will need to provide your birth certificate.

Centrelink & Medicare

To change your gender marker with Centrelink or Medicare, you will need to visit a Services Australia Centre and provide original copies of one of the following:

- birth certificate with your new name and/or gender markers.
- passport with new name an/or gender markers.
- a statement from a registered medical practitioner or registered psychologist.
- Gender Recognition Certificate from Births, Deaths and Marriages.

You can also change your markers by mail at Centrelink and Medicare [here](#) and [here](#). You will need to provide certified copies of your identity documents.

For a name change you will need to visit a Services Australia Centre. Find out what documents you need to provide [here](#).

amending records with NSW government

You can apply to amend your records held with N.S.W. Government Departments, including the Police, Department of Community Services and Department of Housing. You have the right to amend your records held with a N.S.W. government department if:

- The document contains information about your personal affairs;
- The information is used by the government agency; or
- You believe the information is incomplete, incorrect, out of date or misleading.

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If you want to amend your records, your application should: Be in writing;

- say that it is an application under the Freedom of Information Act 1989 (N.S.W.);
- Contain enough information so that the agency can identify the document;
- state the reasons why you believe the document is incomplete, incorrect, out of date;
- or misleading;

other ID documents

There are a number of other documents that you might want to change when you change the official record of your name and gender. These can include:

- university, TAFE and school qualifications;
- insurance policies;
- professional or skills based licences; banks;
- electricity, gas and phone companies; and credit cards

Many of these organisations will have different policies for changing your records. If you have any records or identity documents from them, it is best to call the organisation and ask them about the process for changing your records held with them.

Contacts

Inner City Legal Centre Ph: **(02) 9332 1966**

N.S.W. Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages Ph: **1300 655 236**

Roads & Traffic Authority Ph: **132 213**

Centrelink P: **131 021**

Medicare Ph: **132 911**

N.S.W. Department of Lands Ph: **1300 052 637**

Office of Fair Trading Ph: **133 220**

Department of Immigration & Citizenship Ph: **131 880**

N.S.W. Department of Housing Ph: **1800 629 212**

Australian Electoral Commission Ph: **132 326**

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