

## Table of Gender Recognition Systems in Approved Countries and Territories Under the Gender Recognition Act 2004

Please note that some of the countries and territories on this list will only provide legal recognition to a person who was born in that country or territory.

Country or Territory	Outline of Recognition Process
<b>Australia</b> Capital Territory	The Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1997 allows for a person who has undergone sexual reassignment surgery to apply to alter the record of that person's sex in the registration of the person's birth. The application to alter the register must be accompanied by a statutory declaration from each of two Doctors verifying that the person has undergone gender reassignment surgery. The procedure is only available to a person whose birth is registered in the Capital Territory. A person is issued a new birth certificate that must not mention that the person has changed sex. There is no statutory requirement that the applicant be unmarried, although the form used by the registrars details that a person can only request a change of sex if unmarried.
<b>Australia</b> New South Wales Wales	The Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1995 allows for the alteration of birth registers and the issuing of new birth certificates to record a change of sex. The provisions are substantively the same as those in Australia Capital Territory. People whose birth is not registered in New South Wales may apply if they are an Australian citizen or a permanent resident of Australia and live and have lived in New South Wales for at least 12 months. The result of the procedure, if a person's birth is not registered in New South Wales, is a certificate certifying the particulars of the change of sex contained in an entry in the Register.
<b>Australia</b> Northern Territory	The Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2005 provides that an adult who has undergone sexual reassignment surgery and who is not married may apply for the registration of a change of sex. The applicant must provide evidence verifying they have undergone sexual reassignment surgery. The Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Regulations 2004 provide that the evidence required is either a recognition certificate from elsewhere or two statutory declarations by medical practitioners declaring the individual has undergone reassignment surgery. If the sex change is recognised a new birth certificate is issued that must not mention the change of sex. The parents or legal guardian of a child may apply on behalf of a child.
<b>Australia</b> Queensland	The Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003 provides that a person who has undergone sexual reassignment surgery or obtained a recognition certificate may apply for a change to the birth register. The person must be unmarried and provide a statutory declaration by two doctors verifying the sexual reassignment surgery or provide the reassignment certificate. The statute also provides for recognition of a change of sex of a person who has had reassignment recognised in a register maintained under a corresponding law.
<b>Australia</b> South Australia	The Sexual Reassignment Act 1988 provides for applications to an authorised magistrate for the issue of a recognition certificate. The individual must have had a reassignment procedure carried out in South Australia, and the magistrate must be satisfied that the person believes that his or her true sex is the sex to which the person has been reassigned, and has received proper counselling in relation to his/her sexual identity. 'Reassignment procedure' means a medical or surgical procedure (or a combination of both) to alter genitals and other sexual characteristics so that the person will be identified as a person of the opposite sex. Applicants must be unmarried. A recognition certificate may be issued either if the person's birth is registered in South Australia or the reassignment procedure was carried out in South Australia. The magistrate must also be satisfied that the person has adopted the lifestyle and sexual characteristics of the sex to which he/she has been reassigned. If the applicant is a child the magistrate must be satisfied that the change of sex is in the best interests of the child. The recognition certificate is legally conclusive of the person's sex. The statute also provides that if a person has a recognition certificate or an equivalent certificate from elsewhere the registrar

Country or Territory	Outline of Recognition Process
	<p>must alter the registers where relevant.</p> <p>Under the Sex Reassignment Regulations 2000 applications must be accompanied by a sworn medical practitioner's affidavit relating to the reassignment procedure and an affidavit sworn by a psychiatrist or psychologist relating to the counselling received. The registrar must keep a register of reassignments of sex.</p>
<p><b>Australia</b> Tasmania</p>	<p>The Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1999 provides that an unmarried adult born in Tasmania who has undergone sexual reassignment surgery may apply to the Registrar to register a change of the person's sex. Applications must be accompanied by statutory declarations from two Doctors verifying that the person has undergone sexual reassignment surgery. The Registrar may request further and better particulars before agreeing to do so. The result is an entry on the birth register and an applicant can be issued a new birth certificate that must show the person was previously registered as of the other sex. If requested the applicant may be issued an extract from the Register which does not include the notation of the change of sex.</p>
<p><b>Australia</b> Victoria</p>	<p>An unmarried person who is 18 years or older and whose birth is registered in Victoria and who has undergone sex affirmation surgery may apply to the Registrar for the record of his/her birth registration to be altered. An application must include Statutory Declarations that the applicant has undergone such surgery, by –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• two Doctors; or</li> <li>• two medical practitioners registered under the law of the place where the sex affirmation surgery was performed - who performed the surgery or provided other medical treatment to the applicant in connection with the applicant's transsexualism.</li> </ul> <p>An applicant may also rely on an interstate recognition certificate issued under the legislation of Western Australia or South Australia or other prescribed countries' legislation. The result of a successful application is the alteration of the birth register and a new birth certificate that must not mention the change of sex. A person who was not born in Victoria can apply if they are 18 yrs or over and Victoria is their principal place of residence and has been for the last 12 months and they have undergone sex affirmation surgery. The result of a successful application by such an individual is a document that acknowledges the person's name and sex.</p>
<p><b>Australia</b> Western Australia</p>	<p>The Gender Reassignment Act 2000 provides for a Gender Reassignment Board with the power to issue recognition certificates. Applications are made to the Board for a recognition certificate following a reassignment procedure. The applicant must be unmarried. 'Reassignment procedure' means a medical or surgical procedure (or a combination of both) to alter genitals and other sexual characteristics so that the person will be identified as a person of the opposite sex. The Board must be satisfied that the person believes his/her true gender is the gender to which they have been reassigned, has adopted the lifestyle and has the gender characteristics of the gender to which they have been reassigned and has received proper counselling in relation to his/her gender identity.</p> <p>In order to qualify the gender reassignment procedure must have taken place in Western Australia and the person's birth must be registered in Western Australia or the person must be resident and have been resident for not less than 12 months in Western Australia. If the applicant is a child the Board must also be satisfied that the gender change is in the child's best interests. The result of a successful application is a gender recognition certificate and a new birth certificate; the registrar must also register the reassignment and make any necessary alterations to registers.</p>
<p><b>Austria</b></p>	<p>There is no specific legislation on changing sex/gender, or on gender recognition; decisions are based on administrative practice. Paragraph 19 of the Austrian Civil Status Law provides that a person's sex is recorded in the birth register. Legal gender changes are therefore made to the birth register. Under paragraph 16 of the Austrian Civil Status Law (<i>Personenstandsgesetz - PStG</i>) the authorities keep a record of a person's sex and are required to change the register once the data becomes incorrect.</p>

Country or Territory	Outline of Recognition Process
	<p>The Austrian Interior Ministry issued an administrative decree on 12 January 2007 (No BMI-VA1300/0013-III/2/2007) stating: “When applying for gender change in the birth register the following procedure is to be followed: submission of sufficient documentation, in particular a psychotherapeutic report and medical results of gender reassignment surgery. In cases where this documentation is so unambiguous that it can be used for a decision, there is no need to call on a separate expert’s report. In cases where these required documents cannot be submitted, the applicant is required to hand in a report from a qualified expert.” The decree does not require gender reassignment surgery.</p> <p>The criteria for deciding requests for gender change are in accordance with an Administrative court decision whereby the applicant has to submit sufficient documentation, proving that he/she, after experiencing gender dysphoria for an extended period of time, has taken decisive steps in relation to altering his/her sex (gender reassignment), which have led to a distinct approximation of the outer appearance to the other sex and documentation confirming that it is highly unlikely that the person’s condition will change. The Court did not specify in detail what kinds of gender reassignment measures were required. The marital status of the applicant is not relevant; an applicant does not have to be unmarried.</p> <p>Upon request the applicant can obtain an amended birth certificate (usually requested only after the first name has been changed). Upon request the applicant can also apply for a new marriage certificate, however with one restriction: only the first name can be changed – the fields for sex (male/female) are headers and can therefore not be changed. In addition, the applicant can apply for new personal documents (i.e. new passport) through the responsible authorities.</p>
<b>Belgium</b>	<p>The Belgian Civil Code was amended on 1 September 2007 to provide new rules and procedures for official recognition of a sex change. The amendments to the civil code were introduced by means of a federal law, <i>La Loi Relative à la Transsexualité</i> passed on 10 May 2007 (2007-05-10/55) and explained by a ministerial circular dated 1 February 2008.</p> <p>The Belgian Civil Code, Article 62bis-62ter, now provides for an administrative procedure available to Belgian citizens and foreigners. The decision is made by the local registrar and there is a right of appeal against the decision of the registrar to the courts. The applicant must submit one medical statement certified by a psychiatrist and a surgeon stating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The applicant has an intimate, constant and irreversible conviction of belonging to the opposite sex.</li> <li>• The applicant has undergone gender reassignment treatment to the extent considered medically possible and justified;</li> <li>• The applicant is unable to conceive.</li> </ul> <p>A successful application will result in an entry in the register of births and an amendment in the margin of the birth certificate of the applicant. However, the civil code provides specifically that the legal change of sex is effected only by the entry in the register of births.</p> <p>Foreigners registered on the ‘population register’ can change their sex under the same conditions as Belgian citizens; however, foreigners registered on the ‘aliens register’ can only officially change their sex if they fulfil the requirements stated by the country of which they are a national. If provisions in their country of origin do not allow a change of sex, the Belgian procedure will apply (article 35 of the Code of Private International Law).</p> <p>It would appear that the applicant’s marital status is no bar to an application as same-sex marriages are legal in Belgium following a law passed in January 2003.</p>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	<p>Legal gender change is subject to a court procedure. In order to rule in favour of a gender change, the court requires medical papers showing that an operation has been made or hormone tests proving the change of sexual characteristics (More information can be taken from the court decisions on a case-by-case basis. There is no unified court practice yet). There is no requirement that the transsexual person be unmarried before being accepted for gender</p>

Country or Territory	Outline of Recognition Process
	change. If he/she is married, the court applies the rules for divorce. Once a person's gender change is legally recognised they can marry in the acquired gender. This derives from the prohibition of discrimination in the Bulgarian Constitution. When the court rules in favour of a gender change, it also rules in its decision whether the birth certificate should be amended or a new one should be issued, depending on the facts of the case.
<b>Canada</b> Alberta	The Vital Statistics Act section 22 refers. Where a person has had his/her anatomical sex structure changed to a sex other than on the birth certificate, on production of affidavits from two physicians and evidence of identity the Director of Vital Statistics shall cause a notation to be made to that person's registration. If registered outside Alberta a copy of the proof of gender change will be sent to the official in charge of registration in the other province. Every birth (or marriage) certificate issued after a notation has been made is issued as if the original registration had been made with the new sex designation.
<b>Canada</b> British Columbia	The Vital Statistics Act, section 27 refers. An unmarried transsexual person who has undergone surgery may apply to the chief executive officer of vital statistics to have his/her change of gender recorded on their birth registration document. If surgery was performed in Canada, the officer will require a certificate from a qualified and licensed medical practitioner explaining the procedures carried out and certifying that the medical practitioner performed the surgery. If the surgery was carried out outside of Canada the officer will still need to be satisfied that the person who performed the surgery was qualified to do so in the jurisdiction where the surgery was performed and will require a statement as above. In either case the applicant must also provide a certificate of another medical practitioner who has examined the applicant to confirm that surgery has been carried out and is complete by accepted medical standards. A birth certificate issued after the registration of birth is changed must be issued as if the original registration had been made with the new sex designation.
<b>Canada</b> Manitoba	The Vital Statistics Act section 25 refers. Once a transsexual person has undergone surgery he/she may apply to the Director of Vital Statistics to make a notation of gender change on their registration of birth. The Director will require two medical certificates signed by medical practitioners legally qualified to practice in the jurisdiction in which the surgery was performed. The certificates must state that they performed or assisted in the surgery and that as a result of the surgical procedures the gender should be changed. Where two statements cannot be obtained, the director may require such other evidence as the director considers necessary. The applicant must submit a further certificate signed by a duly qualified medical practitioner other than the one who performed or assisted in the surgery, certifying that they examined the applicant and the surgery was performed and the sex should be changed. Every birth certificate issued after the making of a notation shall be issued as if the original registration had been made with the new sex designation.
<b>Canada</b> New Brunswick	The Vital Statistics Act 1979, section 34 refers. A transsexual person who has undergone surgery may apply to the Registrar General for a notation to be made on the birth registration so that the registration of sex is consistent with the perceived results of the surgery. The Registrar General will require a certificate signed by a medical practitioner legally qualified in the jurisdiction where the surgery was performed. The certificate must explain the surgical procedures carried out and certify that he/she performed transsexual surgery on the applicant, and that as a result of that surgery the designation of sex on the registration of birth should be changed. If this is unavailable the Registrar General will require other evidence confirming the surgery. The Registrar will also require a certificate of a medical practitioner qualified to practice medicine in Canada who did not perform the surgery stating that he/she has examined the applicant and confirm the surgery has been performed and that as a result the birth registration should be changed. The Registrar will also require evidence of identity and a statutory declaration. Every birth certificate issued after the making of a notation shall be issued as if the original registration had been made with the new sex designation.
<b>Canada</b> Newfoundland and Labrador	Article 26 of the Vital Statistics Act 2009 (which came into force on 1 October 2009) provides that the registrar general may, upon application by a person who has undergone transsexual surgery verified by statutory declaration, record a change on the registration of birth of that

Country or Territory	Outline of Recognition Process
	<p>person so that it shall be consistent with the results of the surgery. An application made shall include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) a medical certificate, signed by a medical practitioner legally qualified to practise medicine in the jurisdiction in which the transsexual surgery was performed certifying that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the medical practitioner performed or assisted in performing the transsexual surgery upon the applicant, and</li> <li>b) as a result of the transsexual surgery the designation of the sex of the applicant should be changed;</li> </ol> </li> <li>2) a certificate, signed by a medical practitioner other than the medical practitioner who performed or assisted in the transsexual surgery upon the applicant, certifying that <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the medical practitioner examined the applicant,</li> <li>b) the results of the examination substantiate that the transsexual surgery was performed and the sex designation of the applicant should be changed.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>The registrar general may require any other documentary evidence. A birth certificate issued after recording a gender change shall be issued as if the original registration had been made with the new sex designation. A person who has undergone transsexual surgery and who has fulfilled the requirements of the legislation may apply to the registrar general to record the change of sex on the person's marriage certificate to be consistent with the results of the person's surgery, and the registrar general may, where the consent of the person's spouse has been obtained, record the change on the marriage certificate.</p>
<p><b>Canada</b> Nova Scotia</p>	<p>The Vital Statistics Act, section 25 refers. An application can be made to the Registrar General for a notation to be made on the registry where a person has had his/her anatomical sex structure changed to a sex other than that which appears on his birth certificate. The Registrar will require two affidavits from qualified medical practitioners, each deposing that the anatomical sex has changed, and evidence of identity. If the sex of the person is registered outside the Province, the Registrar will transmit a copy of the proof of the change to the other Registrar. Every birth (or marriage) certificate issued after the making of a notation shall be issued as if the original registration had been made with the new sex designation.</p>
<p><b>Canada</b> Ontario</p>	<p>The Vital Statistics Act, section 36 refers. Where the anatomical sex structure of a person is changed to a sex other than that which appears on the registration of birth, the person may apply to the Registrar General to have the designation of sex on the registration changed so that it is consistent with the results of the transsexual surgery. The Registrar General requires</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) a signed certificate from a qualified medical practitioner stating they performed the surgery on the applicant and that as a result the gender of the applicant should be changed on the birth registration.</li> <li>2) a certificate of a qualified medical practitioner licensed to practice medicine in Canada, who did not perform the surgery but examined the applicant after the operation, to confirm the surgery was performed and therefore the gender of the applicant should be changed on the birth register.</li> </ol> <p>If such medical certificates are not available the Registrar may ask for alternative evidence. Satisfactory evidence confirming the identity of the applicant is also required. Every birth certificate issued after the making of a notation shall be issued as if the original registration had been made with the new sex designation. Anyone holding an old certificate issued before the notation must return it to the Registrar General.</p>
<p><b>Canada</b> Prince Edward Island</p>	<p>The Vital Statistics Act, section 12 refers. An applicant can request a legal change of sex where his/her anatomical sex structure has been changed to a sex other than that which appears in their birth statement. The application to the Director of Vital Statistics must include affidavits of two medical practitioners each stating that their anatomical sex structure has changed and the applicant must provide satisfactory proof of their identity. If the birth is registered in the province, the Director will record the change of sex on the register. If the birth is registered outside the province the Director will transmit a copy of the proof of change of sex to the officer in charge of registration of births in the province in which the birth is registered. Every certificate issued after the change shall be issued as if the original registration had been made with the</p>

Country or Territory	Outline of Recognition Process
	new sex designation.
<b>Canada</b> Quebec	<p>The Civil Code, article 71, provides for the right to legally change sex by amendment to the birth record. The applicant must have undergone medical treatments and surgical operations involving a structural modification of the sexual organs intended to change his/her secondary sexual characteristics. The applicant must be an adult and a Canadian citizen, and must have been domiciled in Quebec for at least one year. The application to the civil registrar must be accompanied by a certificate of the attending physician and an attestation by another physician practising in Quebec to the effect that the treatments and operations were successful. When the application is approved, the Directeur de l'état civil publishes its decision in the <i>Gazette Officielle du Québec</i> and issues a certificate designating the change of sex.</p>
<b>Canada</b> Saskatchewan	<p>The Vital Statistics Act, sections 29-31 refer. A person who has undergone gender reassignment surgery may apply to the Director of Vital Statistics to have the gender changed on their birth registration. The director requires a signed certificate by a medical practitioner legally qualified to practice medicine in the jurisdiction that the surgery was performed, certifying that he/she performed the surgery on the applicant and as a result the birth registration should be changed to reflect their acquired gender. Where such a certificate is unobtainable, the Director may request any other medical evidence that gender reassignment surgery was performed. The Director also requires a certificate signed by a qualified medical practitioner who did not perform the surgery but who examined the applicant after the surgery to confirm that the surgery was carried out and that the birth registration should be changed to reflect the acquired gender. The Director may ask for any other evidence he/she considers necessary. Every birth certificate issued after registration of birth has been changed is to be issued as if the original registration had been made with the new sex designation.</p>
<b>Canada</b> Yukon Territory	<p>The Vital Statistics Act, section 12 refers. An application can be made to the Registrar of Vital Statistics for a notation to be made on the registry where a person has had his/her anatomical sex structure changed to a sex other than that which appears on his/her birth certificate. The Registrar requires affidavits of two medical practitioners stating that the applicant has had his/her anatomical sex structure changed and evidence of the applicant's identity. If the birth was registered in Yukon the Registrar will make a notation on the original birth registration stating the change of gender, but if the applicant was registered in another Province he/she transmits a copy of the proof of the change of sex to the appropriate Registrar. Every birth (and marriage) certificate issued after the making of a notation shall be issued as if the original registration had been made with the new sex designation.</p>
<b>Croatia</b>	<p>According to the Law on State certificates, any change such as a change of sex must be noted on an individual's birth certificate as additionally recorded information. Medical reports are required, indicating that the person has undergone gender reassignment surgery, and including information regarding what type of medical intervention has been carried out and by whom. A request is submitted, supported by relevant documents, to officials in the local administration offices (municipality offices).</p> <p>In order to qualify for gender reassignment surgery the individual has to go through a number of psychological evaluations and hormone therapy, which are only available in private hospitals. Sex change surgeries are not performed in Croatia but in Slovenia and Belgrade.</p> <p>The birth certificate is the most relevant document for all Croatian citizens and the information recorded in it is highly significant. It is proof for gaining citizenship and many rights and benefits that the Croatian state provides, and is needed when applying for an ID, a passport, employment etc. Once the change of sex has been recorded, the individual can marry a person of the opposite sex, if they are single. If a person is married, their marriage is found to be a same-sex marriage following surgery and as such is found illegal and has to be annulled.</p>
<b>Cyprus, Republic of</b>	<p>Changes to the Civil Records are left to the discretion of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Interior under administrative regulations governed by the Civil Record Law. A person who undergoes an operation for the change of sex must submit a medical certificate about this</p>

Country or Territory	Outline of Recognition Process
	operation, together with a sworn affidavit regarding the change of name to the district administrative authorities, in order to effect a legal change of sex. The District Administration will forward the medical certificate to the Ministry of Health for approval and once this is approved a new passport, identity card and electoral identity booklet are issued to the applicant. The original birth record is not changed.
<b>Czech Republic</b>	A legal change of gender is obtained through the local registry office. This process includes obtaining a new birth certificate or a personal identification number (called a Birth Number) and has been possible since the 1970s. Gender reassignment surgery is necessary to obtain this change. Gender reassignment surgery must be approved by a medical advisory board (under the Health Care Act No 20/1966 Coll.) including a lawyer, two medical specialists and two physicians not participating in the surgery. Civil marriages or civil partnerships expire once one of the partners has undergone gender change surgery. However, under current practice, doctors do not usually conduct the surgery unless a marriage has already been legally dissolved and any children's welfare settled by a court. The change of Birth Number is regulated through the Regulation of Citizens Law (29/2000 Coll). The birth number identifies a person by means of nine or ten numbers where the gender is encoded in the digits. The third digit in the Birth Number denotes gender. It is '5' for female and '0' for male. A transgender person is allowed to marry and bring up children.
<b>Denmark</b>	Gender reassignment surgery is required and must be approved by the National Board of Health, in order to obtain a new CPR number (personal identification number). Following surgery the National Board of Health informs the CPR Office of the change. The last digit of the CPR number denotes gender (odd numbers for male and even numbers for female). As a general rule gender reassignment surgery will not be granted unless the applicant has been through an observation period at the Clinic for Sexology at the State Hospital – Rigshospitalet (the only clinic in Denmark recognised by the Danish National Board of Health for assessment for gender reassignment surgery). The National Board of Health is also responsible for recognition of gender change treatment that has taken place abroad; the Board will require a report from the operating doctor in the country as well as a report from a Danish gynaecologist who has performed a complete clinical examination. It is a further condition of legal recognition that orchidectomy, penectomy and usually also vaginoplasty surgery has been undertaken. The Board also needs information on hormonal status. According to the Danish Family Agency's Statutory Order nr 438 of 11 May 2007, it is possible to grant permission for a person to have a name of the opposite sex even if this person has not undergone gender reassignment surgery.
<b>Estonia</b>	<p>The main legislation on gender change is the "General Requirements on Medical Procedures for the Change of Gender" issued by the Minister for Social Affairs (<i>Soovahetuse arstlike toimingute ühtsed nõuded</i>, of 07.05.1999, no 32). This sets out the conditions for changing a person's legal gender and allowing medical treatment for gender reassignment. It requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An application to the Ministry for Social Affairs;</li> <li>• The decision is made by a medical expert committee appointed by the Minister of Social Affairs;</li> <li>• Certification of transsexual identity during at least two years prior to the application;</li> <li>• A psychiatrist's decision that excludes the possibility that the wish to undergo gender/sex change is caused by psychiatric disorder;</li> <li>• Compatibility of chromosomatic and gonad gender/sex certified by genetic research;</li> <li>• At least two years of treatment must pass from the beginning of medical treatment. At least one year must pass from the positive response from the Minister for Social Affairs to have the right to surgically change gender. If the Person decides otherwise during that year they are not obliged to go ahead with the change of gender.</li> </ul> <p>The medical expert committee's decision is the basis for a decree by the Minister of Social Affairs which authorises medical treatment to change a person's gender. This will be the basis for subsequent legal changes. Under section 52 of the Population Register Act (<i>Rahvastikuregistri seadus</i>) the individual can obtain a new personal identification code 'upon amendment of the data on the sex of a person on the basis of an application of the person and</p>

Country or Territory	Outline of Recognition Process
	a certificate of a medical institution holding a corresponding licence'. The applicant will then also be able to obtain a new birth certificate.
<b>Finland</b>	<p>The Act on the Recognition of the Sex of Transsexual Individuals (<i>laki transseksuaalin sukupuolen vahvistamisesta</i>, (563/2002)), which entered into force on 1 January 2003, provides that the authorities shall recognise a person as belonging to the opposite sex to that recorded on the population register, provided he/she:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides a medical report testifying that he/she permanently experiences being a member of the opposite sex and that he/she lives in that gender roles and that he/she has been sterilised or is otherwise incapable of having children</li> <li>• He/she is an adult</li> <li>• He/she is not married or in a registered partnership; unless the spouse or partner gives their consent in which case a marriage become a registered partnership and a registered partnership becomes a marriage</li> <li>• He/she is a Finnish citizen or is resident in Finland</li> </ul> <p>The competent authority is the local register office (<i>Maistraatti</i>). Under section 5 a person whose new legal gender has been recognised is to be treated as a person of that sex for all purposes under the law. The evidentiary result of a change of gender is an update to the Population Information System. This means that a person will be given a new personal identification number. Any person can, on payment of a fee, obtain from the local register office a certificate showing name, personal identification number, address and marital status. In Finland, birth certificates are hardly ever used.</p>
<b>France</b>	<p>There is no statute; only case law codified by two rulings delivered by the Cour de Cassation (the British equivalent of the High Court) in 1992. These provide that when an individual has undergone suitable medical treatment, no longer possesses all the characteristics of their original sex and has taken on the appearance and social behaviour of the other sex, the individual's civil status should henceforth correspond to the sex of his/her appearance. Legal recognition depends upon medically verified evidence of a transsexual syndrome and treatment (hormone therapy and a surgical operation leading to an artificial change of appearance) modifying the physical appearance to the assumed sex. In practice, the requirements of the courts vary, notably when experts (medical, psychological, endocrinal) are called upon to prove the sex change.</p> <p>In May 2010 the French Ministry of Justice sent a circular to the judiciary, advising them that they may recognise a change of sex in an individual's civil status if the person has undergone hormone treatment to result in an irreversible physical or physiological transformation, which, together with any plastic surgery the person may have had (e.g. breast enhancement or removal, or facial surgery), has resulted in an irreversible change of sex. Genital surgery is not required.</p> <p>Trans people may alter their civil status by amending their birth certificate on application to the Tribunal de Grand Instance (a local court) in the town where the birth was originally registered. The judicial decision to alter an individual's sex and the change of name are recorded in the margin of the birth certificate. An official change of sex does not call into question previous sexual identity i.e. a previous marriage is not retrospectively annulled upon change of sex. This means a French couple can stay married although the gender change can, in certain cases, give grounds for fault in a divorce. It is up to the couple to decide. The Civil Code refers. A transsexual person whose birth certificate has been modified may marry in their acquired gender (i.e. a person of the opposite sex). The individual can obtain a certified copy of the amended birth register. Foreign nationals may also apply.</p>
<b>Germany</b>	<p>The relevant legislation is the <i>Transsexuellengesetz</i>, the Law on Transsexuals of 10.09.1980 that entered into force on 1 January 1981. A court can decide that a person should belong to the opposite sex where the applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• has lived for three years in the opposite gender;</li> </ul>



Country or Territory	Outline of Recognition Process
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is of age;</li> <li>• feels, due to being transsexual, that they belong not to their sex as assigned at birth, but rather to the opposite sex.</li> </ul> <p>A note is made in the margin of the birth record and the civil status record is noted with details of the court's decision. If a new birth certificate is issued following legal recognition, this will show only the acquired gender. Full legal recognition is achieved for all purposes including marriage.</p> <p>An amendment to the law was passed on 17th July 2009, removing a previous requirement to be unmarried from the legislation. The result is that married couples may remain in their existing marriage. A Constitutional Court decision of 11 January 2011 ruled inapplicable further requirements contained in the legislation to have a) undergone surgical intervention and b) be sterile.</p> <p>The legislation is open to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• German nationals</li> <li>• stateless persons who have their main residence in Germany</li> <li>• persons with a right of asylum or refugees domicile in Germany; and</li> <li>• foreigners with an indefinite right of residence in Germany, or foreigners with a renewable residence permit who live lawfully in Germany on a permanent basis, whose home state has no equivalent law.</li> </ul>
<b>Greece</b>	<p>There is no legislation on gender change but transsexual people can change their name and identity papers following surgical intervention. According to jurisprudence, this operation is required due to therapeutic needs (psychological, hermaphroditism or predisposition towards the other sex). The judgment orders the modification of the birth certificate, which involves modification of all the administrative documents. There are no legal provisions relating to marriage.</p>
<b>Iceland</b>	<p>An individual who has undergone gender reassignment therapy can request a change of name and identity number in the National Registry (operated by the National Statistical Bureau of Iceland). Up to now all applicants except one have undergone surgery before legal gender change, but in future this will not be required. A diagnosis of transsexualism is required, made after at least 2-3 years of observation where the person is living in the role of the desired gender, has a name characteristic for that gender and has been undergoing hormonal therapy for at least 1 year. Gender reassignment therapy must be approved by the Directorate of Health who is advised by the Board of Gender Operations. A person must be medically insured in Iceland to qualify for treatment.</p> <p>Once the National Statistical Bureau of Iceland agrees to change the name and identity number in the National Registry, this enables the individual to attain the legal standards of his/ her acquired gender. He/ she will get an identity card issued by the National Statistical Bureau of Iceland. Icelandic names are gender specific so when the name has been changed the gender identity has been changed too. It is not possible to amend a birth certificate to show the acquired gender but in Iceland the ID card and/ or driving licence is the most relevant document and is preferable everywhere as a form of identification. The process has no legal effect on a pre-existing marriage.</p>
<b>Italy</b>	<p>The relevant legislation is the <i>Legge</i> 164/1982 of 14.04.1982, 'Rules concerning rectification of sexual attributes' (<i>Norme in materia di rettificazione di attribuzione di sesso</i>). The legislation provides for the correction of a person's sex on the records held by the registrar's office on production of a final judicial decision which assigns that person a different sex 'as a result of the change of the sexual characteristics'. The court may ask for a medical opinion regarding the psycho-physical condition of the person' and decide if gender reassignment surgery is necessary. The law does not clarify the nature or extent of the reassignment required for recognition. Male to female reassignment is usually authorised only when the person has had</p>

Country or Territory	Outline of Recognition Process
	<p>complex surgery including orchidectomy, penectomy and vaginoplasty. It appears that only in one case has a judge ordered a gender reassignment without any surgery. The female to male change is usually only authorised when the person has had surgery including mastectomy and hysterectomy.</p> <p>Under Article 5 of the legislation all civil status documents are altered to show only the new gender and name. Under Article 4 of the legislation the change of gender causes the dissolution of a marriage.</p>
<b>Japan</b>	<p>In Japan, legal recognition is given to a person who has a persistent conviction that he/she belongs to the opposite sex, and has a will to make him/herself physically and socially conform to the opposite sex. The law 111 of July 2003, which took effect on 16 July 2004, called the 'Law concerning special cases in handling gender for people with gender identity disorder', was revised in June 2008. Under the revised law, the applicant is required to meet all the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) be over 20 years of age;</li> <li>b) be unmarried;</li> <li>c) have no living child aged 19 years or younger- this revision took effect on 18 December 2008;</li> <li>d) have no gonads or have permanently lost gonadal function;</li> <li>e) have a part of the body which assumes the external genital features of the opposite sex;</li> </ol> <p>In accordance with law 111, a person can change gender in law by entering this on their "Koseki" (a person's family registration held in town offices; this is the conclusive document in law in Japan). The applicant must meet all the above five conditions. The applicant must submit a medical diagnosis from more than two doctors as evidence to a family court. The contents to be included in the diagnosis are laid down by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare ordinance, and include the medical history of gender identity disorder, and the progress and results of treatment. The doctors must have the necessary knowledge and experience to make an appropriate judgement, and should reach a consensus as to the diagnosis based on medical knowledge. If the court judges that the applicant's gender should be changed, a secretary of the court entrusts the heads of the local government office where the applicant registered his/her permanent residence to state the gender in the applicants' family registration.</p>
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	<p>For the recognition of gender change, the Principality of Liechtenstein requires a document testifying the new gender. If this cannot be produced, a medical attestation is required, confirming that gender reassignment surgery has taken place, and that there is no possibility of reproduction in the original/primary gender. Furthermore, a gender change may not be reversed. Subsequently, the new gender is confirmed by the court, and the new name and gender is recorded in the official registers.</p>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	<p>There is no legislation; the criteria for gender recognition have been established by case law. The general principle is that an individual's civil status is immutable and cannot be altered simply because a person wishes to do so; therefore any change must be exceptional. The court follows three main criteria. These are that there is a discrepancy, discovered at an earlier age, between the psychological experience of the person and their biological sex at birth, that the individual has the intimate conviction that he or she is the victim of nature and that there is a situation of necessity. The court's decision is based on medical certificates but the evidence can change according to the facts of the case. A gender change approved by the court is transcribed into the official records of civil status. After the transcription of the court's decision into the records of civil status, the birth certificate is rectified by the civil status officer to indicate the new sex of the person. The birth certificate is conclusive in law of a person's sex in Luxembourg. Identity or travel documents (carte d'identité/ passeport) are based on the birth certificate, i.e. these documents can only denote the new sex following rectification of the birth certificate.</p>
<b>Malta</b>	<p>The system for obtaining a modification to a birth certificate following gender reassignment surgery is based not on legislation but on two judgements of the Constitutional Court, which</p>

Country or Territory	Outline of Recognition Process
	<p>resulted in changes to birth certificates following surgical intervention. Although there is no statute which governs gender recognition, Maltese Courts have recognised gender changes and allowed amendments to birth certificates. The original birth register/certificate will be amended but is not accessible to the public. All circulated birth certificates will be issued as amended, showing the individual's new status, as will all other legal documents. The applicant must be unmarried. In 2008 the civil court held that the amendment in the margin of a birth certificate was made on the grounds of protecting privacy and not to show a legal change of gender, therefore preventing marriage as a person of the acquired gender. However, no further legal restrictions appear to apply, other than the right to marry in the acquired gender.</p>
<p><b>Mexico-Federal District</b></p>	<p>Gender can be amended on birth certificates in the Federal District under provisions approved in August 2008 in Chapter IV (II) of the Code of Civil Procedure for the Federal District, the 'Special Hearing for the Raising of an Act to Match Gender Change'. According to Article 498 (II) the applicant must meet the following requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Be of Mexican nationality;</li> <li>II. Be of age (otherwise the parent or guardian can act on a child's behalf);</li> <li>III. Provide a verdict issued by two professionals or experts with clinical experience in gender reassignment, where one of the experts is the applicant's treating professional, confirming that the person has been subject to the process of gender reassignment for a minimum of five months.</li> </ol> <p>The report must confirm that sex change treatment (e.g. hormone treatment) was begun more than five months earlier or that definitive action was taken to undergo sex change (surgery). If the trial judge is not satisfied with the report, he/she may request the participation of other experts. The applicant must attend a hearing with the experts who have issued the verdict. In the absence of the experts, the proof will be taken as incomplete.</p> <p>The Judge will order, within a period of five working days following a ruling in favour of the applicant, the corresponding annotation to the original birth certificate and the issue of a new birth certificate denoting the gender change. Birth certificates are conclusive in law of a person's sex in Mexico. The original birth certificate shall be restricted and no record will be published or issued, except by warrant or ministerial request.</p>
<p><b>Moldova</b></p>	<p>Moldovan law allows for legal gender change only after 'change of sex'. So far this has been interpreted as biological / surgical change of sex. Four individuals have successfully changed gender in law in Moldova since independence. After biological / surgical change of sex, the Moldovan Ministry of Information and Technology will issue a certificate stating that the person has changed sex. With this certificate it is possible to change all other official documents (passport, birth certificate, ID card etc).</p>
<p><b>Netherlands</b></p>	<p>The relevant legislation is article 1:28 of the Civil Code, which provides that the courts may allow an individual to change the sex in their birth certificate. Individuals must be sterile and have undergone full gender reassignment surgery or at least partial reassignment surgery if the person concerned is convinced, to the satisfaction of a team of medical and psychiatric experts, that the wish to change is permanent. If the court orders a change of gender, the registrar makes an entry in the birth record referring to the order. Any change to the sex stated on the birth certificate does not affect family law relationships. There are no restrictions on the right of the trans person to marry in their acquired gender.</p> <p>Same sex marriages are now allowed in the Netherlands. A previous requirement to be unmarried was abolished by article 1(D) of the same-sex marriage legislation of 2000.</p>
<p><b>New Zealand</b></p>	<p>Under Part 5 of the Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationship Registration Act a Family Court may declare that the applicant's birth certificate should state the applicant is of the sex nominated in the application. The applicant must be 18 years of age or older, or a person who is younger than 18 years but who is or has been in a marriage, in a civil union or in a de facto relationship, and a person whose birth is registered in New Zealand or who is a New Zealand citizen.</p>

Country or Territory	Outline of Recognition Process
	<p>The Court shall issue the declaration if, and only if, it is satisfied the applicant has assumed and intends to maintain, or has always had and intends to maintain, the gender identity of a person of the nominated sex, and wishes the nominated sex to appear on birth certificates issued in respect of the applicant. The Court must also be satisfied, on the basis of expert medical evidence, that the applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has assumed the gender identity of a person of the nominated sex; and</li> <li>• Has undergone such medical treatment as is usually regarded by medical experts as desirable to enable persons of the genetic and physical conformation of the applicant at birth to acquire a physical conformation that accords with the gender identity of a person of the nominated sex; and</li> <li>• Will, as a result of the medical treatment, maintain a gender identity of a person of the nominated sex.</li> </ul> <p>Alternatively, the Court must be satisfied that the applicant's sexual assignment or reassignment has been recorded or recognised in accordance with the laws of a state for the time being recognised for the purposes of this section by the Minister by notice in the <i>Gazette</i>. It is possible for a child to apply under different criteria. The Registrar General shall amend birth information accordingly. Under section 30(2) the Registrar General shall not at any time act if the person concerned is then lawfully married to a person of the nominated sex.</p>
<b>Norway</b>	<p>There is no specific legislation. Surgery is required for a gender change in law; the applicant must be at least 18 years old and have undergone gender reassignment surgery. To receive the treatment a person must be diagnosed with gender identification disorder (GID). On the grounds of a change of sex, a person may have a new birth certificate issued, stating the current name, date and place of birth and current (changed) ID number. Norway's ID numbers indicate gender in the third digit (even numbers for female and odd numbers for male); any government issued ID such as a driving licence will show the number as well. An individual can apply for a change of name without intending to undergo surgery.</p>
<b>Poland</b>	<p>Polish nationals can be granted legal recognition of their gender change by a civil court. There are no separate regulations concerning change of sex in Polish law. Court rulings in such cases are based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A general rule in the Civil Law stating that, a <i>plaintiff can demand the court to determine existence or non-existence of a legal relation or right, when a plaintiff has a legal interest in it</i>. According to the Supreme Court ruling (1989) <i>sense of affiliation with a certain sex can be acknowledged as a personal interest, which is protected by the Civil Law</i>.</li> <li>• In 1978 the Supreme Court stated that in exceptional cases a court can correct a birth certificate by changing the sex designation before correctional surgery of sexual organs, if the features of the new sex are predominant and irreversible.</li> </ul> <p>In order to begin the court's procedure a citizen should obtain a medical diagnosis confirming that he or she is transsexual or intersex (they must have a proven sense of affiliation with the new sex). They must be undergoing hormonal therapy (resulting in predominant and irreversible features). For more 'liberal' courts it is enough to show a medical diagnosis, for others a completed mastectomy is required. In most cases courts require a medical diagnosis and hormonal therapy. A trial takes place in a civil court with parents as defendants. Most often courts appoint an expert to confirm that both conditions mentioned in the Supreme Court ruling are met.</p> <p>Following the positive court ruling, applicants can apply to a borough-equivalent local authority (Starosta) for a change of name (a name can also be changed by the court in its ruling). The Starosta approves the change of name on grounds of gender change and forwards the decision to the Birth Certificate Register. The birth certificate remains unchanged, but information about the gender change is appended. A citizen is entitled to undergo Sex Reassignment Surgeries only after the court's ruling allowing change of sex. There is no obligation to undergo SRS. An</p>

Country or Territory	Outline of Recognition Process
	<p>applicant applies for a new ID on grounds of significant changes of personal data and thereby gets a new Personal Identification Number. He/she is entitled to apply for a new passport in his/her new name. He/she has a right to get married with the same legal provisions as for all other citizens.</p>
<b>Romania</b>	<p>According to Article 44 of Law 119/1996 on civil status documents a person can have his/her birth certificate and ID card modified after changing gender. A gender change can only be recognised by a final and irrevocable decision of the courts. A person can also request a modification of their first name by providing a copy of the court decision on gender change and a copy of a forensic medical document which shows the current gender. In practice the authorities require a certificate from the National Institute of Legal Medicine (NILM) before changing an individual's name after a sex change.</p>
<b>Serbia</b>	<p>Legal recognition of gender change is possible in Serbia following gender reassignment surgery. In order to be allowed to have gender change surgery a person has to have an official diagnosis confirmed by a psychiatrist, who is obliged to talk to the patient's family and friends in order to confirm his/ her diagnosis. After the psychiatrist's confirmation the patient may then consult an endocrinologist in order to start hormone therapy.</p> <p>To be officially recognised after the surgery, the person has to submit full medical documentation to the local Registrar's office (including the psychiatrist's diagnosis and documentation on surgery), which is officially checked afterwards. The request for an official change of name must also be submitted (both first name and surname can be changed). Once the change is permitted by the Registrar, the person has to officially submit a request to change the JMBG (a citizen's personal ID number, which includes a gender specification) to the Ministry of Interior (the local police unit where the person was born and originally registered). After this the person is entitled to be issued personal documents (ID card and passport). Birth certificates must be amended.</p>
<b>Russian Federation</b>	<p>A person's new gender is recognised under provisions of the Federal Law No 143 FZ on Civil Status Acts, dated 15 November 1997. A person's new gender is registered under Chapter IX on making changes to Civil Status records. Article 70 provides for changing records in case of a gender change, subject to the provision of a medical certificate confirming the change of gender. Gender reassignment surgery is required. In practice it is very difficult for a person to obtain a medical certificate confirming the change of gender as doctors generally refuse to operate and treat most applicants as mental or endocrine patients. Hormone therapy and plastic surgery are recommended but often these treatments do not provide legal grounds for the change of gender. The form for the medical certificate confirming gender change is not harmonised across Russia; therefore the Civil Status Registration bodies have to send each medical certificate to the Board of Health for confirmation of its validity.</p>
<b>Singapore</b>	<p>There is no clear legislation on legal gender change. Under the National Registration Regulations Singapore's citizens who have changed any of their particulars, including gender, should report to the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) for a replacement National Registration Identity Card (NRIC). The identity card (NRIC) is the main piece of legal identity documentation in Singapore. Gender reassignment surgery is required to change the gender status on the NRIC. The ICA requires a medical certificate issued by the surgeon who carried out the operation. The applicant will also generally change his/her name and to do so, a deed poll is required.</p> <p>A person's gender cannot be changed on Singaporean birth certificates as the information (original gender before operation) records what was correct at the time of birth. However, following a gender change to the NRIC a person is treated according to their acquired gender for many purposes including military service, criminal punishment and marriage. Under the Women's Charter Amendment Act of 1996 marriages are valid between a person who has undergone a sex reassignment procedure and any person of the opposite sex on the basis that the stated sex of a person at the time of marriage is prima facie that stated on his/her NRIC.</p>

Country or Territory	Outline of Recognition Process
<b>Slovakia</b>	<p>There is no legislation that explicitly provides for gender change in Slovakia. However, there is no law prohibiting gender change either.</p> <p>In order to obtain a formal record in the Register Book where the birth of the person is recorded, a written statement is required from the Sexology Clinic where the gender change is taking place. The statement must contain information on a definite change of gender from one to the other; according to the Slovak Law No.277/1994 on Health care provision (amended), Article 38 - Conditions of psychiatric treatment, Section 4: "The procedure of medical treatment of transsexuals is defined by a regulation that will be issued by the Ministry of Health". While Slovakia is missing such a regulation, according to the Slovak Sexology Association, the gender change 'approved' by the Sexology Clinic is in reality a combination of reassignment surgery and a hormone therapy, following an assessment by a doctor- an expert in sexual psychology (which usually takes years). As the gender change surgeries are not done in Slovakia, Slovak patients usually undergo this treatment in Prague. The Czech clinic then issues a document that serves as a document required by the Slovak authorities (Register Office).</p> <p>Based on this document and a letter of application from the person undergoing the change, the appropriate Register Office makes a formal record into the Register Book where the birth of the person is recorded. The new entry must record the gender change, birth number and if the applicant requests it, also a change of the name and the surname.</p> <p>The new birth number of the individual is provided by the Registry of Citizens (birth number registration unit) to the Register Office. Name and surname change is regulated by Law No.300/1993 on Name and Surname (some of its provisions have been amended by Law No.564/2008, valid from 1 February 2009), article 7, section 1, letter c) and article 7, section 2, letter f). Changes to the Register Book (Birth Record Book in this case) are made under the articles 26 and 37 of the Law No.154/1994 on Register Offices (amended) in connection with a Regulation No.302/1994 to the Law on Register Offices (amended) of the Interior Ministry.</p> <p>Following all the above mentioned changes in the Register Book, the relevant authority (the Register Office) issues the citizen a new Birth Certificate with a new identity that is a prerequisite to obtaining a new ID card from the relevant Police Department. Although the ID is generally most frequently used, a Birth Certificate is often required for administrative purposes to complement the ID and, in some cases; the Travel Passport can be used instead of the ID.</p>
<b>Slovenia</b>	<p>Article 4 of the Register of Civil Status Act states that a change of sex shall be recorded in the Register on Civil Status. Gender reassignment surgery is required. Once a person has had gender reassignment surgery they must get a doctor's certificate confirming the change of gender. The person then applies to the Ministry of Interior with the certificate to have the change of gender entered in the Register of Civil Status. The individual will then be issued a new birth certificate. The Ministry of Interior will change the gender in the register for any Slovenian citizens who have changed their gender in Slovenia or abroad. However, this right is not extended to foreign residents.</p>
<b>South Africa</b>	<p>The Birth and Death Registration Act 1992, read with the provisions of the Alteration of Sex Description and Sex Status Act 2003, provides that a person who has undergone a gender reassignment procedure may apply for the alteration of his or her gender description in his or her birth register. The 2003 Act provides for two main categories of applications.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Persons who have undergone a sex change operation or medical treatment resulting in their gender reassignment (Section 2(2)(b) and (c)). In such cases two medical reports are required: (a) one by the medical practitioner who applied the procedures or medical treatment or by a medical practitioner experienced in such procedures or treatment, and (b) a report by a second medical practitioner who has independently examined the applicant to establish his or her sexual characteristics.</li> <li>2. Intersex persons: (Section 2(2)(d)). In this category, a report by a medical practitioner corroborating that the applicant is intersex, as well as a report by a qualified psychologist or social worker corroborating that the applicant is living and has lived stably and satisfactorily, for an unbroken period of at least two years in the gender role</li> </ol>

Country or Territory	Outline of Recognition Process
	<p>corresponding to the sex description under which he or she seeks to be registered, is required.</p> <p>If the application is granted the sex description on the birth register is altered and an amended birth certificate is issued. A person whose sex description has been altered is deemed for all purposes to be a person of the sex description as altered, as from the date of the recording of such alteration.</p>
<p><b>South Korea</b></p>	<p>In 2007 the Supreme Court made a ‘Family Registration Regulation’ on the application for Permission of Sex Change of Transsexuals. It was amended in January 2010. Legal gender change is subject to a court ruling. The individual makes an application to the local court in the district in which they live. The court then considers the case, makes a ruling and the applicant’s sex is changed in the government database. The applicant must fulfil the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be over 20 years old, have never married before, and have no children;</li> <li>• acknowledge sufferings from youth;</li> <li>• have received long-term psychiatric treatment and provide proof of physical surgery;</li> <li>• be irreversibly sterilised;</li> <li>• not be undergoing the legal recognition process with criminal intent.</li> </ul> <p>The applicant must provide the following documentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• certificates from more than two psychiatrists;</li> <li>• a doctor’s certificate to prove the applicant’s sex reassignment surgery;</li> <li>• a doctors certificate to prove that the applicant is sterile;</li> <li>• consent from the applicant’s parents;</li> <li>• a letter from the applicant explaining their hardship and suffering;</li> <li>• a letter from the applicant’s friends explaining the applicant’s hardship and suffering from the inconsistency of their physical and psychological sex.</li> </ul> <p>Once the applicant’s entry in the government database is changed, all government documents are issued on the basis of this information. Applicants can also apply to change their name.</p>
<p><b>Spain</b></p>	<p>On 15 March 2007 Spain introduced an act on the Rectification of the mention of Gender in Registries (<i>Ley 3/2007 Rectificación registral de la mención relativa al sexo de las personas</i>). This legislation provides that any person of Spanish nationality, over the age of 18 years, may request the rectification of the gender entry on the Civil Register. It is an administrative procedure. The requirements for a successful application are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A diagnosis of gender dysphoria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This must be proven by a report submitted by a doctor or clinical psychologist who is a member of a Spanish professional association and whose qualifications have been recognised or accredited in Spain. The report must refer to the existence of a discrepancy between the biological sex or the initially registered physiological gender and the gender identity or psychosocial sex felt by the applicant, as well as the stability and persistence of this dissonance. The report must also refer to the absence of personality disorder that could decisively influence the existence of the dissonance.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Medical treatment for at least two years to adapt his/her physical characteristics to those corresponding to the claimed sex. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This must be proven by a report by the practicing doctor under whose direction the treatment was carried out or, in its absence, a report by a forensic surgeon.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>The legislation specifically provides that gender reassignment surgery is not necessary (Article 4(2)). Medical treatment as described above is also not necessary if the health or age of the person makes it impossible. The legislation provides that a person who can prove, by means of a report by a registered physician or a Civil Register Physician’s certificate, that she/he underwent sex reassignment surgery before the legislation came into force will be exempt from fulfilling the requirements above.</p> <p>The individual will be issued a new national identity card; the national identity number itself does</p>

Country or Territory	Outline of Recognition Process
	<p>not change. Following the legalisation of same-sex marriages in July 2005 (<i>Ley 13/2005 por la que se modifica el Código Civil en materia de derecho a contraer matrimonio</i>) people can remain married or get married in their acquired gender to someone of the same or different sex. Article 1 of the legislation amending article 44 of the Civil Code provides “marriage will have the same requirements and effects when both parties are the same or different sex”.</p>
<b>Sweden</b>	<p>The Determination of Gender in Certain Cases Act 1972 is still in force. Applications are made to the National Board of Health and Welfare’s Legal Council; the Legal Council is the authorisation panel for gender change operations. The legislation provides that applicants must be Swedish citizens, at least 18 years old, sterile, and unmarried to get their gender change application approved. Following the change in legislation of 1 April 2009 allowing same-sex marriage, the requirement of being unmarried for gender recognition would appear redundant, although the legal position is unclear. The applicant also has to go through a two year consultation period including one year of a “real life” test. Hormone treatment can start 9 months after the consultation process. Legally it is the Tax Authority that approves the gender changes following the operation by issuing a new personal identification number to the individual. In certain cases the Legal Council has to approve a gender change following the operation, for example when individuals have had the operation abroad. Following the decision, the person has legal recognition in the new gender for all purposes, including marriage.</p>
<b>Switzerland</b>	<p>Gender recognition occurs by decision of the local court of a person’s place of residence. Existing marriages must be ended. The applicant must have undergone irreversible surgery and must be sterile. Subsequently, a change of name “due to important reasons” will be recorded in the register of civil status, as well as the family and birth register.</p>
<b>Turkey</b>	<p>In order to legally change gender in Turkey, a person has to be observed by the psychiatric ward of a University and Research Hospital for 2 years to obtain a report stating that the person in question needs to have a gender change operation for her/his psychiatric health. The individual can then apply to the Civil Courts to demand a gender change operation, provided they are over 18 years old, unmarried and sterile. While the court verifies the medical report, the person undergoes tests to establish gender and suitability for such an operation at the Hospital. Once the results are finalised, the report is submitted to the court and permission for an operation is issued. Gender change procedure, depending on how it is carried out, may be completed in one or more operations. Once the operation is completed, the person applies to the court with a medical report to have his/her national identification information altered and a new birth certificate.</p>
<b>Ukraine</b>	<p>Article 51 of the Bases of Ukrainian Legislation on Health Protection adopted by the Ukrainian Parliament’s Decree of November 19th, 1992, No. 2802 – XII provides for the process of gender change, and the provision of medical, psychological, legal and social help to individuals who require gender change. According to this Article, an individual over 25 years of age can have gender reassignment surgery completed in the authorised health care institution in compliance with medical-biological and socio-psychological conclusions provided by the Ministry of Health of Ukraine.</p> <p>An individual who has undergone gender reassignment surgery will be provided with a medical certificate which can then serve as a reason for a subsequent change to the individual’s legal status. This medical certificate can be taken to the registry office (usually at the place where the person resides) in order to legally change his/her documents. Two conclusive legal documents which establish individual’s sex in Ukraine are passport and birth certificate.</p> <p>Medical-biological and socio-psychological conclusions for gender change are regulated by the Decree of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine of March 15th, 1996, No. 57, registered in the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine on June 10th, 1996 as No. 279/1304. The procedure of examination of individuals who require gender change (correction) is established by the Decree of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine of March 15th, 1996, No. 57 registered in the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine on June 10th, 1996 as No. 281/1306. The Decree of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine of March 15th, 1996, No. 57 registered in the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine on June</p>



Country or Territory	Outline of Recognition Process
	10th, 1996 as No. 282/1307, contains a list of health care institutions which have the authority to conduct gender reassignment surgery and approves the composition of the permanent commission for gender change questions under the Ministry of Health of Ukraine.
<b>United States</b> Alabama	Alabama will amend birth certificates noting change of name and/or sex, but will not issue a new birth certificate to replace the original. Amended birth certificates will note that the sex has been changed. A certified copy of an order of a court of competent jurisdiction indicating that sex reassignment surgery has occurred and the name of the individual has been changed is required for amendment to the birth certificate.
<b>United States</b> Alaska	Alaska will generally amend birth certificates it issues under a general power to make corrections and amend birth certificates. A court order is required to amend a name or sex on a birth certificate. Amended birth certificates will note that the sex has been changed; in particular it should be marked "amended", include the date of the amendment and provide a summary of the evidence.
<b>United States</b> Arizona	Arizona will amend birth certificates it issues. It will amend the sex designated on the birth certificate if an individual can provide a written statement by a physician that verifies the sex reassignment surgery or shows a chromosomal count that establishes the sex of the person as different than in the registered birth certificate, or if the registrar receives a court order ordering an amendment.
<b>United States</b> Arkansas	Arkansas will amend birth certificates it issues. It will amend the name and sex designated on the birth certificate if an individual can provide a certified copy of an order of a court of competent jurisdiction indicating that the sex of the individual has been changed by surgical procedure and that the individual's name has been changed.
<b>United States</b> California	California will provide a new birth certificate for individuals who were born in California and who underwent sex reassignment surgery. The individual must petition with the superior court of the county where the individual resides. The petition must be accompanied by an affidavit from a physician documenting the sex change and a certified copy of the court order changing the applicant's name. No mention shall be made in the new birth certificate that it is not the original birth certificate of the individual.
<b>United States</b> Colorado	Colorado will provide a new birth certificate if an individual can provide a certified copy of an order of a court of competent jurisdiction indicating that the sex of the individual has been changed by surgical procedure and that the individual's name has also been changed.
<b>United States</b> Connecticut	For individuals born in Connecticut, Connecticut will issue new birth certificates reflecting a gender change that in no way reveals the certificate's original language. Only the Commissioner can amend the gender on a birth certificate if an individual provides: an affidavit from a licensed psychiatrist, psychologist or clinical social worker who performed a psycho-social evaluation and can attest to the fact that the registrant is socially, psychologically and mentally the designated sex; an affidavit from the surgeon performing the sex change operation, attesting to the fact that the surgery was performed; and a court order for legal name change, if applicable. For Connecticut residents born out of state or in foreign countries, Connecticut probate courts will also issue decrees stating that the individual's birth certificate should be amended by the other jurisdiction to reflect the gender change. In order to be granted a decree, an individual must provide an affidavit from a physician attesting that the applicant has physically changed gender and an affidavit from a psychologist, psychiatrist or a licensed clinical social worker attesting that the applicant has socially and psychologically changed gender.
<b>United States</b> Delaware	Delaware will issue a new birth certificate correcting the gender designation and name if an individual, born in Delaware, provides a certified copy of an order of a court of competent jurisdiction indicating the sex of the individual has been changed by surgical procedure and whether the individual's name has been changed. On the newly issued birth certificate, there will be no indication of the changes that have been made to the original certificate.

Country or Territory	Outline of Recognition Process
<b>United States</b> District of Columbia (Washington DC)	The District of Columbia will amend the birth certificate of an individual born in the District upon provision of a certified copy of an order of the Court indicating that the sex of the individual has changed by surgical procedure and that the individual's name has been changed.
<b>United States</b> Florida	The Florida Bureau of Vital Statistics will amend the sex designation on birth records following gender reassignment surgery. Florida Statute 382.016 addresses the amendment of records. Florida Administrative Rule 64V-1.003 addresses amendments to birth records and documentary evidence requirements. Sex can be amended if the item was left blank, or if the sex as recorded is clearly in conflict with the given names as recorded. The individual is asked to submit a photocopy of their identification and a completed application along with the documentary evidence they have to support the amendment. The applicant must submit medical records indicating that the patient has completed sexual reassignment in accordance with appropriate medical procedures. The physician performing the surgery must include in his or her statement the new sex of the patient and sign before a notarisng official certifying the above. The physician must include his/ her medical license number. The Bureau of Vital Statistics requires the original record/ document sent to their office for review. All requests are then forwarded to the department's general counsel for review to see if it meets the criteria for the amendment. The state of Florida will accept court ordered legal name changes from a court of competent jurisdiction; they no longer have to be domesticated in a Florida court.
<b>United States</b> Georgia	Georgia will amend birth certificates that it issues. For sex and name amendment, Georgia requires a certified copy of a court order indicating the sex of an individual born in Georgia has been changed by surgical procedure and that the individual's name has been changed.
<b>United States</b> Hawaii	Hawaii will issue new birth certificates for individuals that have had sex reassignment surgery. A physician's affidavit is required to show the physician has examined the individual and determined there has been a sex change. The director of health may further investigate and require addition information if he or she deems it necessary.
<b>United States</b> Illinois	Illinois will provide a new birth certificate for individuals that can provide an affidavit by a physician that states he or she has performed an operation on the individual and that by reason of the operation the sex designation on the person's birth record should be changed. The State Registrar of Vital Records may make any investigation or require any further information he or she deems necessary.
<b>United States</b> Indiana	The Indiana State Department of Health will amend birth certificates following gender reassignment surgery. Paragraph 16-37-2-10 of the Indiana Code provides that the state department may make additions to or corrections in a certificate of birth on receipt of adequate documentary evidence. Documentation must be provided by the doctor who performed sex reassignment surgery, stating that the applicant has completed sex reassignment surgery and is now the reassigned gender. The person's name must be changed under paragraph 34-28-2 of the Indiana Code, whereby the circuit court in which the individual resides can change the name of any natural person. A copy of the decree of this court, certified under the seal of the court by the clerk of the court, is sufficient evidence of the name of the person, and of a change having been made, in any court of Indiana. This evidence must be brought to any court in the United States to obtain a court order that states this person is now female or is now male. This court order must be brought to Indiana State Department of Health to obtain a corrected birth certificate. A new amended birth certificate will be issued.
<b>United States</b> Iowa	Iowa will issue a new birth certificate for individuals. The State Registrar requires a notarised affidavit by a licensed physician and a surgeon or osteopathic physician and surgeon stating that by reason of the surgery or other treatment the sex designation of the person has been changed. The State Registrar may make further investigations or require further information.
<b>United States</b> Kansas	Kansas will amend birth certificates it issues if the birth registrant can provide an affidavit, or a parent's affidavit if the registrant is under the age of 18, that the sex was incorrectly recorded, or with a medical certificate substantiating that a physiological or anatomical change has occurred.

Country or Territory	Outline of Recognition Process
<b>United States</b> Kentucky	Kentucky will amend a birth certificate it has issued if the birth registrant can provide a sworn statement by a licensed physician indicating that the gender of the individual born in the Commonwealth has been changed by surgical procedure and a certified copy of an order of a court of competent jurisdiction changing that individual's name.
<b>United States</b> Louisiana	Louisiana will issue a new birth certificate. Individuals born in Louisiana must provide a court order obtained on the basis of proof that he or she was properly diagnosed as a transsexual or pseudo-hermaphrodite, that sex reassignment or corrective surgery was properly performed upon him or her, and that as a result of such surgery and subsequent medical treatment the anatomical structure of the sex of the individual has been changed to a sex other than that which is stated on his or her original birth certificate.
<b>United States</b> Maine	Maine will issue a new birth certificate to individuals that were born in Maine and underwent sex reassignment surgery and can provide a notarised affidavit by the physician who performed the surgical procedure.
<b>United States</b> Maryland	Maryland will amend the sex designation on the birth certificates of individuals born in Maryland who can provide a certified copy of an order of a court of competent jurisdiction indicating the sex of the individual was changed by surgical procedure. In <i>Re R.W. Helig</i> , the court of appeals of Maryland held that a Maryland court of general jurisdiction could grant legal recognition of a sex change if the individual identifying as transsexual could present evidence of a permanent and irreversible gender change.
<b>United States</b> Massachusetts	Massachusetts will amend birth certificates for individuals born in Massachusetts who can provide a physician's notarised statement that he or she has completed sex reassignment surgery and is not of the recorded sex as well as a certified copy of a legal change of name.
<b>United States</b> Michigan	Michigan will issue a new birth certificate for an individual that was born in Michigan and can provide an affidavit of a physician certifying that sex reassignment surgery was performed.
<b>United States</b> Minnesota	Minnesota will issue a new birth certificate pursuant to a court order. This is based on general powers rather than specific measures for gender change.
<b>United States</b> Mississippi	Mississippi will add a marginal notation of gender change to birth certificates it has issued if the individual can provide a certified court order and a medical statement that attests to the reassignment. To obtain the court order for gender change, documentation is required from the doctor who performed the sex reassignment surgery, as well as a court order from any US state authorising name change.
<b>United States</b> Missouri	Missouri will amend birth certificates of individuals born in Missouri if they can provide a certified copy of an order of a court of competent jurisdiction indicating the sex of the individual has been changed by surgical procedure and that such individual's name has been changed.
<b>United States</b> Montana	Montana will amend birth certificates for individuals who are born in Montana and who can provide a certified copy of an order from a court with appropriate jurisdiction indicating that the sex of the individual has been changed by surgical procedure. If the court so orders, a new certificate can be issued without evidence that there was any amendments made.
<b>United States</b> Nebraska	Nebraska will issue a new birth certificate for individuals born in Nebraska who can provide a notarised affidavit from the physician that performed the sex reassignment surgery on the individual and a certified copy of an order of a court of competent jurisdiction changing the name of the person. The new certificate will be prepared in substantially the same form as used for other live births and inspection of the original certificate will only be allowed upon provision of a court order.
<b>United States</b>	Nevada will issue a new birth certificate for an individual having a sexual transformation. A court

Country or Territory	Outline of Recognition Process
Nevada	order of a competent jurisdiction is required.
<b>United States</b> New Hampshire	New Hampshire will issue a new birth certificate for individuals that were born in New Hampshire and can provide a certified copy of a court order advising that such individual has had a sex change.
<b>United States</b> New Jersey	New Jersey will issue an amended birth certificates for individuals who are born in New Jersey who can provide a certified copy of an order from a court of competent jurisdiction which indicates the name of the person has been changed and a medical certificate from the individual's licensed physician which indicates his or her sex has been changed by surgical procedure. The amended certificate will be in the same general form as the original birth certificate and the original will only be able to be viewed by court order.
<b>United States</b> New Mexico	New Mexico will amend birth certificates for individuals that were born in New Mexico if they can provide a statement signed under penalty of perjury by the person in charge of an institution or from the attending physician indicating that the sex the individual has been changed by surgical procedure and a certified copy of an order changing the name of the person.
<b>United States</b> New York	<p><u>New York State:</u> The Department of Health is authorised to correct birth certificate information in accordance with NYS PHL 4176. To correct the sex item on the birth certificate, the Department of Health requires the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A statement signed by the surgeon specifying the date, place and type of procedure. In cases of male to female transsexual people, the minimum required surgery is an orchidectomy (removal of testes) and for female to male it is a complete hysterectomy (removal of ovaries and uterus).</li> <li>- Surgical report(s) made in the operating room describing in detail all procedures performed on the applicant</li> <li>- Psychological report documenting true transsexualism, inappropriate sexual identification or that the individual satisfies the Harry Benjamin Society transsexual criteria.</li> <li>- Other medical reports concerning hormonal, chromosomal or endocrinological information provided by a physician. This should include the type of hormone and length of treatment for each.</li> <li>- Completed birth certificate correction application signed by the individual named on the birth certificate.</li> </ul> <p>To change the name on a birth certificate a certified copy of a court order is required by NYS PHL 4138. By processing the name change and correction together, a new birth certificate referred to as an amended birth certificate is prepared. The original and all documents are placed under seal.</p> <p><u>New York City</u> will issue a new birth certificate if an individual can provide evidence that his or her name has been changed pursuant to court order and that he or she has undergone sex reassignment surgery.</p>
<b>United States</b> North Carolina	North Carolina will issue new birth certificates for individuals that can provide a notarised statement from the physician who performed the sex reassignment surgery or from a physician licensed to practice medicine who has examined the individual and can certify that the person has undergone sex reassignment surgery.
<b>United States</b> North Dakota	North Dakota will amend the birth certificate of an individual born in North Dakota if he or she can provide an affidavit by a physician stating that the physician has performed an operation on the person, and that by reason of the operation, the sex designation of such person's birth record should be changed and an order of a court of competent jurisdiction decreeing a legal change in name. Amended birth certificates will be marked "amended".
<b>United States</b> Oklahoma	Although there is no legislation in Oklahoma specifically dealing with the issue of legal sex change, there is a provision for amending birth certificates pursuant to a court order. The Vital Records Service in the Oklahoma State Department of Health will change the gender marker on

Country or Territory	Outline of Recognition Process
	birth certificates for individuals who can provide documentation of sex reassignment surgery. In most cases a notarised letter from the surgeon who performed the sex-reassignment surgery will be sufficient evidence, although the Vital Records Service is entitled to make its own determination and may require more information. If the request is not accepted, then as is provided in the regulation, the individual can go before an administrative law judge to request that the birth certificate be changed.
<b>United States</b> Oregon	Oregon will amend birth certificates of individuals born in Oregon if they can provide a certified copy of an order of a court of competent jurisdiction indicating that the sex of the individual has been changed by surgical procedure and whether such individual's name has been changed.
<b>United States</b> Pennsylvania	Although there is no mention of legal sex change in Pennsylvania legislation, there is information that indicates that the Division of Vital Records will amend a birth certificate for an individual born in Pennsylvania upon court order and evidence that sex reassignment surgery has occurred.
<b>United States</b> Rhode Island	Although Rhode Island does not have legislation specifically regarding legal sex change, the Office of Vital Records has a policy of allowing amendments to birth certificates if an individual can provide evidence of sex reassignment surgery. A notarised letter from the doctor or institution that performed the surgery is required. Treatment for gender dysphoria in Rhode Island follows the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care.
<b>United States</b> South Carolina	Correction of mistakes in birth certificates may be made by the state registrar upon written application and upon receipt of supporting evidence when required by regulation. A court order is required. The birth certificate is marked amended with the item changed noted.
<b>United States</b> South Dakota	Although South Dakota does not have legislation specifically regarding legal sex changes, it has a policy of, upon court order, allowing amendments to sex designations on birth certificates for individuals born in South Dakota. Evidence that sex reassignment surgery has taken place is generally required. The Court order must specify and order a new birth certificate.
<b>United States</b> Utah	Utah will amend birth certificates for individuals born in Utah if they can provide a certified copy of a court order of approval of sex change from a Utah district court or a court of competent jurisdiction of another state or a province of Canada. A certified copy is issued without additional cost.
<b>United States</b> Vermont	Upon order of the probate court of the district in which the birth occurred, Vermont will amend certificates it has issued. The probate court requires a certified copy of actual surgery, when and where it took place, and exactly what took place signed by the SRS surgeon.
<b>United States</b> Virginia	Virginia will amend the birth certificate of individuals born in Virginia who can provide a certified copy of an order of a court of competent jurisdiction indicating that the sex of the individual has been changed by medical procedure and a certified copy of a court order changing the person's name. Virginia will issue a new birth certificate for individuals born in Virginia who can provide acceptable evidence of sex reassignment surgery (preoperative diagnosis, postoperative diagnosis and description of procedure) and a notarised affidavit from the physician performing the surgery as well as a certified copy of the court order changing the name and designating the sex of the individual.
<b>United States</b> Washington	<p>Although Washington does not have legislation that specifically refers to gender recognition, the Department of Health will change the gender designation on a birth certificate. The applicant must apply to the State Registrar at the Department of Health with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a letter from the applicant identifying the record by name, date of birth, parents' names, and place of birth and explaining the change being requested and giving appropriate new information such as name and gender;</li> <li>- A letter from the applicant's medical or osteopathic physician stating that the applicant has had the requisite clinical treatment;</li> </ul>

Country or Territory	Outline of Recognition Process
	<p>- An original or certified copy of a court order name change.</p> <p>The department retains documentation from the physician or hospital in a sealed file.</p>
<p><b>United States</b> West Virginia</p>	<p>West Virginia does not have specific legislation regarding gender recognition. The State Registrar of Vital Statistics will change the sex designation on an individual's birth certificate. The applicant must provide a certified court order ordering a change of name and a letter from the surgeon who performed gender reassignment surgery attesting that the gender has been permanently altered. The Registrar strikes through the existing name and gender and types the new name and gender above.</p>
<p><b>United States</b> Wisconsin</p>	<p>Any person with a direct and tangible interest in a birth certificate registered in the state may petition a court to change the name and sex of the registrant on the certificate due to a surgical sex change procedure. If the state registrar receives an order which provides for such a change the state registrar shall change the name and sex on the original certificate, except that if the court orders the state registrar to prepare a new certificate the state registrar shall prepare a new certificate.</p>
<p><b>United States</b> Wyoming</p>	<p>Wyoming will amend birth certificates. A court order is required when the sex of an individual has been changed. The court requires documentation of Sex Reassignment Surgery by the surgeon who performed this surgery. If the court orders a new certificate is issued.</p>
<p><b>Uruguay</b></p>	<p>The law 18.620 establishes the right to 'have a gender identity' and also the right to amend identity documents (ID, passport and voter registration card).</p> <p>It is an administrative action decided in the Family Court. The individual must prove with a witness that their behaviour has matched their acquired gender identity for at least the preceding two years (and that the dissonance between the gender assigned to them at birth and their acquired gender is stable and persistent). The law establishes a multi-disciplinary team specialised in gender identity and diversity within the Civil Registry for the purpose of testifying to this effect. This group of professionals gathers testimonies from people who know the applicant, such as neighbours, colleagues, relatives and teachers, as well as professionals who have seen the applicant for social, mental or physical matters. The applicant can supply whatever evidence they wish, but these testimonies are especially taken into account.</p> <p>Surgical reassignment is not required, but if the applicant has undergone gender reassignment surgery they are not required to prove that they have been living in their acquired gender for the preceding two years. The marital status of the applicant is not relevant.</p> <p>The registration of gender change allows the individual to exercise all the rights attached to their acquired gender. Once a person has changed his/ her gender on public documents, he/ she can marry in his/ her acquired gender. The legislation establishes that this person should let his/ her partner know about the change, but this is not mandatory. It will depend on whether the Civil Registry staff check the side notes on the birth certificate. The administrative and legal obligations (such as debts) remain the same for the applicant.</p>