



Guidelines for registered medical practitioners and registered psychologists

To facilitate completion of the Medical Report Proforma for Gender Recognition

Gender Recognition Act 2004

Updated June 2014

The information in this publication is available in alternative formats on request. Please contact the Gender Recognition Panel administrative team on 0300 123 4503 or grpenquiries@justice.gov.uk

All medical reports submitted to the Gender Recognition Panel must be supplied by a doctor or a registered psychologist, registered with the General Medical Council (GMC) or the Health and Care Professions Council. Please note that since November 2009 this means that the doctor must be both registered with the GMC and also hold a licence to practise.

Overview of process

The Gender Recognition Act 2004 (GRA) established the Gender Recognition Panel to determine applications from transsexual people aged 18 or over who wish to be legally recognised in their acquired gender. To gain a Gender Recognition Certificate, individuals must apply providing evidence that meets the requirements of the GRA. This will include medical evidence.

Your patient is applying for legal recognition of their gender change. Depending on the type of application your patient is making, s/he will be required to submit at least one and possibly two medical reports. In the case of a diagnosis of gender dysphoria, the medical report must be from either a medical practitioner or a registered psychologist, practising in the field of gender dysphoria.

The requirements that relate to the evidence provided by the applicant's medical practitioner or registered psychologist are described below.

The evidence required

Medical evidence is required for two types of application:

- Standard application where the applicant has lived in their acquired gender for two years or more;
- Alternative application where the applicant has lived in their acquired gender for six years or more prior to 10 December 2014 and continues to live in that gender (for Scottish protected marriages and civil partnerships this date is the 16 December 2014).

Standard Applications: Two Reports Required

The applicant is required to submit **two** reports:

one report made by

- a registered medical practitioner practising in the field of gender dysphoria or a registered psychologist practising in the field of gender dysphoria.

This report must include **details** of the diagnosis of the applicant's gender dysphoria.

The Gender Recognition Panel maintains a list of Registered Medical Practitioners and Registered Psychologists practising in the field of Gender Dysphoria.

And one report by

- a registered medical practitioner who may, but need not practise in the field of gender dysphoria. For example, this report may be completed by the patient's GP.

This report must include **specific details** of the patient's treatment. For example, exactly what treatments (e.g. hormones) the patient is taking and whether they have undergone or are undergoing or have planned any treatment for the purpose of modifying their sexual characteristics. If the patient has had surgery the exact details of the surgical procedures must be included; it is not sufficient to state 'gender reassignment surgery'. If the patient has not had surgery then the report must explain why.

Alternative Applications: One Report Required

The medical report must confirm either that they

- have been diagnosed with gender dysphoria

As with the standard application, the report detailing the diagnosis of gender dysphoria must be completed either by a registered medical practitioner practising in the field of gender dysphoria or a registered psychologist practising in the field of gender dysphoria. Again the report must provide details of the diagnosis of gender dysphoria.

or else

- have undergone surgical treatment for the modification of their sexual characteristics.

If your patient is applying on the basis that they have had treatment for the purpose of modifying their sexual characteristics, again this report must be made by a registered medical practitioner (who may but need not practise in the field of gender dysphoria) or by a registered psychologist who must practise in the field of gender dysphoria. This means that, for example, this report can be supplied by any practising GP or surgeon.

The legal position

Under the Gender Recognition Act, information relating to an application for a Gender Recognition Certificate is 'protected information' if it is acquired in an official capacity. It is an offence to disclose protected information to any other person except under the specific circumstances outlined in section 22 of the Gender Recognition Act 2004. A full list of exemptions can be found at section 22(4) of the Act but approved reasons will include disclosure

- where the information has been anonymised;
- to which the person has agreed;
- to comply with a court order;
- to meet obligations imposed by other statutes.

You should note however that there is no general exemption for a disclosure in 'public interest'.

Your patient has approached you in an official capacity and as a result any information relating to this application is protected information. If other people are to have access to your files; you will need to obtain the patient's consent before recording any information that could later be seen by a third party. This is true regardless of whether your patient's application is successful.

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To be completed by the applicant's registered medical practitioner or registered psychologist.

Your details - the registered medical practitioner/registered psychologist

1. Your title

2. Full name

3. Practice address

postcode

4. Telephone number

5. GMC/HPC registration no.

6. Are you practising in the field of Gender Dysphoria?

Yes No

About your patient

7. Patient's name

8. How long has the patient been under your care?

9. Has your patient been diagnosed with gender dysphoria or a gender-related disorder?

Yes No

10. Has your patient had surgical treatment for the purpose of modifying their sexual characteristics?

Yes No

11. Please provide details of the gender related diagnosis for which your patient is being or has been treated.

Copies of previous diagnosis reports can be provided if they contain sufficient detail. Details can be provided on a separate document if that document is identified in the space below.

12. You should list the drugs prescribed and the specific surgical procedures that your patient has undergone for purpose of modifying sexual characteristics. If your patient has not undergone surgery for this purpose, one of their reports will need to explain why not.

13. Report made on (date)

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By (signature)

