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Sex and Gender Diverse Passport Applicants

Revised Policy

Sex reassignment surgery is not a prerequisite to issue a passport in a new gender. Birth or citizenship certificates do not need to be amended for sex and gender diverse applicants to be issued a passport in their preferred gender.

A letter from a medical practitioner certifying that the person has had, or is receiving, appropriate clinical treatment for gender transition to a new gender, or that they are intersex and do not identify with the sex assigned to them at birth, is acceptable.

The letter will only be accepted from practitioners registered with the Medical Board of Australia (or equivalent overseas authority). 'Appropriate clinical treatment' does not have to be specified.

A full validity passport in a new sex may also be issued to applicants who have undergone sex reassignment surgery and have registered their change of sex with Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages (RBDM) or the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC).

A passport may be issued to sex and gender diverse applicants in M (male), F (female) or X (indeterminate/unspecified/intersex).

Applicants must meet all other normal passport requirements, such as providing proof of identity documents to support their identity in the wider community.

The policy removes unnecessary obstacles to recording a person's preferred gender in their passport and was developed in close consultation with sex and gender diverse community organisations in Australia.

This initiative is in line with the Australian Government's commitment to remove discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or sex and gender identity.

For further advice, contact the Australian Passport Information Service on 131232 or the Passport Policy Section on passports_policy@dfat.gov.au.

All state and territory passport offices will have trained staff in sex and gender diversity policy who can assist you at interview if required.

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What do I need to do to apply for a passport in my preferred gender?

You need to lodge an Application for Australian Passport at an Australia Post outlet, Australian Passport Office or Australian diplomatic or consular mission. Please be aware that the Australian Passport Renewal Application form (PC7) cannot be used to change any detail that appeared on a previous Australian passport.

For further information on the application that best suits your circumstances, please contact APIS on 131232 or your nearest Australian diplomatic or consular mission.

You must also meet the usual passport application requirements, including providing proof of your identity and Australian citizenship status, and pay the applicable fee/s.

In addition, to be issued a full validity passport in your preferred gender, you must provide either a:

- Letter from a registered medical practitioner (registered with the Medical Board of Australia or equivalent overseas authority) certifying that you have had, or are receiving, appropriate clinical treatment for gender transition to a new gender or that you are intersex; or
- RBDM revised birth certificate; or
- RBDM gender recognition certificate; or
- RBDM recognised details certificate; or
- DIAC revised citizenship certificate (or a letter from DIAC confirming that DIAC has accepted the reassigned sex and their records have been amended).

Why do I have to have a sex recorded on my passport?

Under the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) standards, sex is one of four mandatory personal identifiers contained in a passport. A passport must include either the letter M (male), F (female) or X (unspecified).

Do I have to change the sex on my Australian birth or citizenship certificate?

No. You no longer need to change the sex on your birth or citizenship certificate to be issued a passport or other travel document in your preferred gender.

What evidence do I need to provide from my doctor if I am unable to change the sex on my birth or citizenship certificate?

A letter from a registered medical practitioner (registered with the Medical Board of Australia or equivalent overseas authority) certifying that you have had, or are receiving, appropriate clinical treatment for gender transition to a new gender or that you are intersex.

For people transitioning

This is a sample of a letter your doctor should use certifying that you have had, or are receiving, appropriate clinical treatment for gender transition.

*Registered medical practitioner's letterhead
(including full name and contact details)*

I, < medical practitioner's full name > am the doctor of < name of patient > with whom I have a doctor/patient relationship and whom I have treated (or with whom I have a doctor/patient relationship and whose history I have reviewed and evaluated).

< Name of patient > has had, or is receiving, appropriate clinical treatment for gender transition to the new gender of (specify new gender male or female).

*Signature of medical practitioner
Signature block of medical practitioner
Registration number from the Medical Board of Australia (or equivalent overseas authority)*

For people who are Intersex

This is a sample of a letter your doctor should use certifying that you are Intersex.

*Registered medical practitioner's letterhead
(including full name and contact details)*

I, < medical practitioner's full name > am the doctor of < name of patient > with whom I have a doctor/patient relationship and whom I have treated (or with whom I have a doctor/patient relationship and whose history I have reviewed and evaluated).

< Name of patient > is intersex and lives in the gender (specify new gender male or female).

OR

< Name of patient > is intersex and is of indeterminate sex.

*Signature of medical practitioner
Signature block of medical practitioner
Registration number from the Medical Board of Australia (or equivalent overseas authority)*

I am planning to travel overseas for sex reassignment surgery. Can I get a passport in my preferred gender?

Yes, sex reassignment surgery is not required to issue a passport in your preferred gender. However, you must provide a letter from your medical practitioner confirming you have had, or are receiving appropriate clinical treatment for gender transition or that you are intersex.

I'm married and have had sex reassignment surgery but cannot get a revised birth certificate. Can I get a passport in my reassigned gender?

Yes. You no longer need to change the sex on your birth certificate to be issued a passport in your preferred gender. However, you must provide a letter from your medical practitioner confirming you have had, or are receiving appropriate clinical treatment for gender transition or that you are intersex.

I am unable to complete sex reassignment surgery. Am I able to obtain a passport in my preferred gender?

Yes, sex reassignment surgery is not required to issue a passport in your preferred gender. However, you must provide a letter from your medical practitioner confirming you have had, or are receiving appropriate clinical treatment for gender transition or that you are intersex.

In the process of transitioning to my preferred gender, I have changed my name. Am I able to get a replacement passport?

Yes. You will need to lodge an Application for Australian Passport at an Australia Post outlet, Australian Passport Office or Australian diplomatic or consular mission. Please be aware that the Australian Passport Renewal Application form (PC7) cannot be used to change any detail that appeared on a previous Australian passport.

Requests for a gratis replacement passport following a change of name as part of the transitioning process will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Any gratis replacement passport issued would have the same expiry date as the passport being replaced. If you have not previously had an Australian passport, the full fee is applicable when applying for a passport.

Your change of name must be formally registered with the RBDM in the state or territory of your birth or residency and an original RBDM certificate provided as evidence of your new name. You must also provide a letter from your medical practitioner confirming you have had, or are receiving, appropriate clinical treatment for gender transition or that you are intersex.

I have not had sex reassignment surgery and I can't get a letter from my doctor. What should I do?

Apply for a Document of Identity (valid for a maximum of three years), with the sex field left blank. Alternatively, email the Passport Policy Section at passports_policy@dfat.gov.au or call the Australian Passport Information Service on 131232 and ask them to refer your case to the Passport Policy Section for review.

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