

From the USA

[State Dept: Reassignment Surgery No Longer a Prerequisite for Gender Change on Passport](http://www.towleroad.com/2010/06/state-dept-reassignment-surgery-no-longer-a-prerequisite-for-gender-change-on-passport.html)

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The U.S. State Department has [eased restrictions on passport rules for transgender people](#). Now, evidence of clinical treatment for gender transition, and not surgery, is the only requirement for a gender change on a passport, according to a notice from the White House:



The U.S. Department of State is pleased to use the occasion of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Month to announce its new policy guidelines regarding gender change in passports and Consular Reports of Birth Abroad.

Beginning June 10, when a passport applicant presents a certification from an attending medical physician that the applicant has undergone appropriate clinical treatment for gender transition, the passport will reflect the new gender. The guidelines include detailed information about what information the certification must include. It is also possible to obtain a limited-validity passport if the physician's statement shows the applicant is in the process of gender transition. No additional medical records are required. Sexual reassignment surgery is no longer a prerequisite for passport issuance. A Consular Report of Birth Abroad can also be amended with the new gender.

As with all passport applicants, passport issuing officers at embassies and consulates abroad and domestic passport agencies and centers will only ask appropriate questions to obtain information necessary to determine citizenship and identity.

The new policy and procedures are based on standards and recommendations of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH), recognized by the American Medical Association as the authority in this field.

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# US unveils new passport rules for transgender people

(AFP) – 22 hours ago

WASHINGTON — The United States has new, more flexible passport regulations for transgender people, and ended an earlier requirement that reassignment surgery precede a passport gender change, the State Department said.

"Sexual reassignment surgery is no longer a prerequisite for passport issuance," it said in a statement.

From June 10, "when a passport applicant presents a certification from an attending medical physician that the applicant has undergone appropriate clinical treatment for gender transition, the passport will reflect the new gender," the statement said.

The new policy and procedures are based on standards and recommendations of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH), recognized by the American Medical Association as the authority in this field, the department said.

"As with all passport applicants, passport issuing officers at embassies and consulates abroad and domestic passport agencies and centers will only ask appropriate questions to obtain information necessary to determine citizenship and identity."

The State Department said the new rules mean "it is also possible to obtain a limited-validity passport if the physician's statement shows the applicant is in the process of gender transition. No additional medical records are required."

The change coincides with Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Month, the department added.

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Hi All, 10-06-2010

That is fantastic news. Also the Report from Belgium is very instructive, and again I think we could benefit from extracting some of the details in that too.

I agree that the Case by Case Basis form the Passport Office for those of us staying married after surgery is a great step forward, but it leads to a female passport and a male BC, or vice versa. Might I also draw your attention to the fact that DIAC have issued these details for those born off shore.

*"Note: the surgeon's statement would contain information such as confirmation that the person has undergone a full gender re-assignment procedure. The psychiatrist's statement would provide confirmation that the person is living as their chosen gender of identity, has undergone hormone treatment and shows no intention of reverting to their original gender"* This would suggest to me that surgery is not a requirement, and confirmed by DIAC(both departments. Immigration FOI and Citizenship) as per the last section of the above.

Also we have the situation of those of us staying married as per this extract from the Federal Attorney-General's letter to me dated 17-03-2009.

*"Gender re-assignment surgery has never, of itself, changed the status of a marriage which was valid at the time of solemnization. It has always been the case that a validly solemnized marriage would continue, irrespective of whether one of the parties subsequently underwent gender re-assignment surgery. The same-sex reforms due to come into force on 1 July 2009 do not change that position."*

I think that it is time that we attacked all 9 Governments and start talking about not having to divorce in order to amend our BC after surgery. I think that it is now becoming amply apparent that governments through out the World are beginning to think more kindly about our issues.

Kathy Anne Noble  
Changeling Aspects