

How to get a Gender Recognition Certificate

Some transgender people choose to get a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC). This is an option available for people who transition from male to female or from female to male, and allows their gender identity to be legally recognised. At the moment, you cannot get a GRC to change your legally recognised gender to reflect a non-binary or intersex identity.

To get a GRC you must:

- Be 18 or over
- Have a gender dysphoria diagnosis and/or have had transition-related surgery
- Be able to prove you have 'lived in your affirmed gender role' for at least two years. Your 'affirmed gender role' is the gender role you have transitioned into, where as your 'assigned gender at birth' is the one you have transitioned away from. The date you started living in your affirmed gender is usually taken as the date of your deed poll, assuming you chose a gendered name.
- Intend to live in your affirmed gender role for the rest of your life

A GRC allows you to:

- Get married or civilly partnered in your affirmed gender, as wife/husband.
- Appear on a child's birth certificate in your affirmed gender, as mother/father.
- Be recorded in your affirmed gender for tax and pension purposes
- Be recorded in your affirmed on your death certificate
- If you were sent to prison, you would get sent to a male/female prison based on your affirmed gender role, rather than your assigned gender at birth.

There is also something that is sometimes referred to as 'the spousal veto'. This basically means that if you are married, your partner has to agree to you getting a GRC in order for you to get one.



We at The Clare Project believe non-binary and intersex identities should be legally recognised and that the rules around marriage, medical transition and living in a 'gender role' are exclusionary and discriminatory.



Getting a Gender Recognition Certificate: Steps

Steps to complete:

1. Complete an application form, which you can find on www.gov.uk.
2. Attach your birth certificate.
3. Attach a copy of your deed poll (or any other proof that you changed your gender role) dated at least two years ago.
4. Attach three pieces of evidence per year for the last two years which refer to you in your affirmed name and/or gender role, e.g. bank statements, bills, etc.
5. Attach a medical report that has your gender dysphoria diagnosis on it.
6. Attach a medical report, often written by your GP, with a summary of all of the steps towards medical transition that you have taken.
7. Attach a statutory declaration, which is a written statement witnessed by a solicitor (check www.gov.uk for guidance).
8. Enclose a fee of £5 (this has recently been reduced from £140).
9. Post it to: GRP, PO Box 9300, Leicester, LE1 8DJ,

If you are married, you must also send:

- A copy of your marriage certificate AND
- A statutory declaration written by your spouse with their consent or, if relevant, proof that your marriage has been dissolved or your spouse has passed away.

If you have legally changed your gender in a different country, you must send:

- your new birth certificate and old birth certificate OR
- an amended birth certificate that shows the change of gender OR
- a court order authorising your change of gender OR
- a document that's equivalent to a Gender Recognition Certificate OR
- an entry in a legal register that proves your acquired gender has been recognised



Lizzie is a 35 year old transgender woman. She came out three years ago, and changed her name, pronouns, and appearance to be more stereotypically feminine. In January 2021 she is seen by the Gender Identity Clinic (GIC), diagnosed with gender dysphoria, and started on oestrogen.

Lizzie tells the GIC she would like to get married to her supportive male partner. The GIC advise that she get a Gender Recognition Certificate so that she can appear as female on her marriage certificate.

Lizzie goes on www.gov.uk. First she reads The General Guide for people wishing to apply for a GRC, form T455. Then she downloads the application form, form T450. She carefully reads the guidance on how to fill it, form T451. She then fills it in, step-by-step. She asks her partner to help her double check she is doing it correctly.



She easily fills in the sections on her contact details, personal details, and birth registration information, she needs her national insurance number and birth certificate to do this. She was born in the UK, so she skips Section 4.



Lizzie changed her name by deed poll on 1st January 2018, so she puts this as the date from which she can prove she changed gender role. She attaches to her application a passport and driver's licence issued in 2018, with her name and new gender marker. She finds a payslip and gas bill from 2019, and a water bill and bank statement from 2020, all with her new name on them. She also includes her birth certificate.

Lizzie fills in her GP and GIC contact details. She already has a medical report from the GIC detailing her gender dysphoria diagnosis and the steps she has taken on her transition so far. She also asks her GP to fill in form on www.gov.uk, form T452, and send her a copy of it. She attaches these two documents to her application.

Lizzie then downloads a Statutory Declaration from www.gov.uk, form T467. She walks down the high street and finds a solicitors office. A solicitor witnesses her filling out and signing the form, and charges her £5.

Lizzie then takes her form to the post office and buys a big envelope to put all her documents in. She asks the post office for a postal order for £5. She encloses the postal order in the envelope. She asks the post office to send her envelope second class signed-for delivery to GRP PO Box 9300, Leicester, LE1 8DJ.

