

Where to start:

In this document, you will find a brief summary of what we think is the easiest and most efficient order in which to complete the legal processes linked to your social transition. These are the conclusions we have drawn from research into all the legal requirements to change your documentation, as prescribed by the UK government. This is not a prescriptive guide, just something we thought would be a useful introduction if you want your gender to be legally recognised and don't really know where to start. If you find any of this information to be incorrect or have any suggestions based on your experience, please contact us at YourTransFriend.org@gmail.com.

If you are planning to change your name, then this is where we recommend you begin. You can change your name by Deed Poll, which is easy and free if you want to go with the unenrolled route and £42.44 if you want to enrol it. This can later be used as evidence in a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC) application, if you want to change your passport or driver's licence details, as well as being helpful for changing your details with your bank and utilities company. In addition, having already changed your name can help provide proof of your commitment to your gender at your Gender Identity Clinic appointments. (See the 'How to change your name' file for instructions on this).

If you don't want to change your name, we'd recommend changing your title with your bank and utilities company first, as this shouldn't require any documentation. This is because you will then have proof of living in your gender from the earliest date possible. As explained in the previous paragraph, this is helpful when trying to get a GRC and useful for providing proof of your commitment to your gender at your Gender Identity Clinic appointments.

A GRC is a certificate provided by the Gender Recognition Panel which certifies the legal recognition of your gender transition, so you will be legally recognised as being the gender you are currently living as rather than the one assigned at birth. Although a GRC is often cited as something you can use as evidence of your transition when changing your other documents' details, the GRC application itself requests you to have already changed the details of documents like your passport, as one type of accepted evidence. The GRC is also not the only thing you can use as evidence to change your gender on official documents. You may find from reading our guides that you don't think you need a GRC, however, if you do, we have included a whole file on both the standard and alternative routes to applying for one, with additional information about how to get all the information it requests as well. If you're wondering what the difference is between a standard route and an alternative route application, they're actually very similar. For most, the standard route will be the one to go for. The alternative route seemingly exists for incredibly specific circumstances which aren't explained very clearly in the guide to the form. For your reference the official 2020 guidance from

the government states this application route is only for use by individuals who:

"were a party to a protected marriage or a protected civil partnership or a Scottish protected marriage or a Scottish protected civil partnership on or before the date of your application and remained still married or in a civil partnership on the 10 December 2014 (for Scottish protected marriages and civil partnerships this date is 16 December 2014) and for marriages or civil partnerships registered in Northern Ireland this date is 13 January 2020

- have lived full time in your acquired gender for at least 6 years before the 10 December 2014, and have continued to live in the acquired gender until the date the application was made, (for Scottish protected marriages and civil partnerships this date is the 16 December 2014 and for marriages and civil partnerships registered in Northern Ireland this date is 13 January 2020)

- either have or have had gender dysphoria or else have undergone surgical treatment to modify your sexual characteristics and • are ordinarily resident in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland."

Subsequently, the following guidance is also added:

"If your protected marriage or protected civil partnership or Scottish protected marriage or Scottish protected civil partnership has been dissolved or your spouse or partner has died then you can still use this application route providing you meet the other qualifying conditions".

However, reviewing this information we noticed the following contradictions:

- It seems impossible for one to make an application in the present day (or tomorrow) as well as be married or in a civil partnership on the date of the application and remain married or in a civil partnership by 2014 (as underlined by Your Trans Friend).
- It then seems that remaining in the protected marriage/civil partnership or Scottish protected marriage/ Scottish civil partnership is not a necessary condition, as you can still use this application route if your marriage/civil partnership has been dissolved or your partner/spouse has died (though no information with regard to this is given if your marriage or civil partnership was registered in Northern Ireland and has been dissolved or your spouse/partner has died).

We are going to send a freedom of information request to the government in an effort to clarify this. In the meantime, please

find below Your Trans Friend's temporary interpretation of the information.

This application route is only for use by individuals who:

- Have lived in their 'acquired' gender for at least 6 years before 10/12/2014 **and** were in a protected marriage or protected civil partnership on or before 10/12/2014.
- Have lived in their 'acquired' gender for at least 6 years before 16/12/2014 **and** were in a Scottish protected marriage or Scottish protected civil partnership on or before 16/12/2014.
- Have lived in their 'acquired' gender for at least 6 years before 13/01/2020 **and** were a party to a marriage or civil partnership registered in Northern Ireland on or before 13/01/2020 and remain so by the date of their application.

(Warning—the documents are long, and they can be found under: 'Revised guide to standard route GRC application' and 'Revised guide to alternative route GRC application').

In addition to guides on applying for a GRC, we've also provided separate files explaining the processes of changing your driver's licence details; passport details; as well as your name and title with your bank. These files are all labelled accordingly.