

Documentation Required by VSA to Amend Your BC Birth Record:

NOTE: Please submit original documents only and faxes are not accepted.

Application for Change of Sex Designation on Birth Registration (form VSA 509):

- Include the legislative amendment fee of \$27.00. Please note the requirement to return all previously issued birth certificates.

Medical Certificate of Trans-sexual Surgery (SRS) (form VSA 510):

- Note the requirement for submission of a certified copy of the medical practitioner's licence of practice if the practitioner practice is outside of BC.

Supporting Medical Certificate of Trans-sexual Surgery (SRS) (form VSA 511):

- Note the requirement for submission of a certified copy of the medical practitioner's licence of practice if the practitioner practice is outside of BC.

When Completing the Necessary Forms:

- Ensure the form is complete, which includes addresses and contact information.
- Always use ink.
- All signatures must be originals. Physician's office stamps are not acceptable.

Important Considerations:

- The legislation and the Vital Statistic application forms only require the medical practitioner who performed the surgery to explain the surgical procedures and certify the performance of the trans-sexual surgery (SRS).
- The medical practitioner who did not perform the surgery must be **qualified and licensed to practise medicine in the jurisdiction where the applicant resides** and also be able to certify that the results are completed by acceptable medical standards.
- The *Vital Statistic Act* does not have a definition of "trans-sexual surgery." Therefore, Vital Statistics relies on medical practitioners to exercise their own medical judgement in accordance with their own experience, expertise, and contact with the applicant to determine whether "trans-sexual surgery" has been performed and whether as a result of surgery the sex designation on the birth registration should be changed.
- Hormone blockers that prevent puberty and the development of second sex characteristics do not qualify as a "trans-sexual surgery" on their own right without any other surgical interventions, like the trans-sexual surgeries funded by BC's Medical Service Plan.



Change of Sex Designation

What Service Providers and Health Professionals need to know about amending a BC Birth Record as a result of Trans-Sexual surgery (SRS)

Transgender Health Program

Three Bridges Community Health Centre
#301 – 1290 Hornby Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 1W2
Phone / TTY: 604-734-1514
Or 1-866-999-1514 (toll-free in BC)
Fax: 604-633-4241
Website: www.transhealth.ca
Email: transhealth@vch.ca

It is important you know that ...

- In British Columbia, the legislative authority for changing the sex designation of one's birth record is outlined in the *Vital Statistics Act (VSA)*, section 27, which reads:

Change of Sex Designation:

- **27 (1)** If a person in respect of whom trans-sexual surgery has been performed is unmarried on the date the person applies under this section, the chief executive officer must, on application made to the chief executive officer in accordance with subsection (2), change the sex designation on the registration of birth of the person in such a manner that the sex designation is consistent with the intended results of the trans-sexual surgery.
- (2) An application under subsection (1) must be made in the form required by the chief executive officer and must be accompanied by,
 - (a) if the trans-sexual surgery was performed in a province of Canada, the certificate of a medical practitioner, qualified and licensed to practise medicine in that province, explaining the surgical procedures carried out and certifying that the medical practitioner performed the trans-sexual surgery on the applicant,
 - (b) if the trans-sexual surgery was performed in a jurisdiction outside Canada,
 - (i) evidence satisfactory to the chief executive officer that the person who performed the surgery was, at the time of the surgery, qualified and licensed to practise medicine in that jurisdiction, and
 - (ii) the certificate referred to in paragraph (a) certified by the person who performed the surgery, and
 - (c) the certificate of a medical practitioner who did not perform the trans-sexual surgery, but who is **qualified and licensed to practise medicine in the jurisdiction where the applicant resides**, certifying that
 - (i) the medical practitioner examined the applicant,
 - (ii) the results of the medical practitioner's examination substantiate the certificate of the practitioner who performed the trans-sexual surgery, and
 - (iii) the trans-sexual surgery is complete by accepted medical standards.
- (3) A birth certificate issued after the registration of birth is changed under this section must be issued as if the original registration had been made showing the sex designation as changed under this section.

Answers to FAO:

- A new BC Birth Certificate is not automatically issued following the amendment to your BC birth record.
- The easiest way to request a new BC Birth Certificate is to complete the "Application for Amendment to Birth Registration" section of the Application for Change of Sex Designation form, which is at the end of the VSA 509.
- Vital Statistic offers two different certificates, and you may select the type of certificate you desire. You must submit the applicable payment for the requested certificate(s), which is not included in the \$27.00 amendment fee. **There is an additional fee of \$27 for a new birth certificate** that reflects the gender change.
- Alternatively, you may complete the application online at the url below after the sex designation has been updated to your birth registration.
<https://ecos.vs.gov.bc.ca/>
- Persons born outside of BC must contact their province or country of birth to alter their birth records.

Additional Information:

- Feel free to contact Ingrid Bloomfield of Vital Statistic BC for further clarification on requirements for amendments to records as a result of trans-sexual surgery.

Ingrid Bloomfield
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