



Verein für TransGender-Personen

 <http://TransX.at>

FACT SHEET - SEX CHANGE IN AUSTRIA

Judicial Facts

Change of Personal Status

Austrian public authorities can change the registered gender for Austrian citizens, recognised refugees and all other citizens born in Austria. The entry of the gender will be carried out firstly in the central register of births, deaths and marriages and then in the population register. Afterwards the new personal identity papers can be applied for.

The change of the judicial gender requires one, in some provincial states two statements from a psychologist, a psychiatrist or a psychotherapist, who confirms the following facts: (1) a permanent feeling of belonging to the other gender, (2) that it is irreversible in all foresight, and (3) that measures have been taken that lead to a convergence to the outer appearance of the other gender. Gender confirmation operations are explicitly not necessary.

Change of name

A change of the first name is only possible when the chosen name does not contradict the registered gender. Gender neutral first names, for men as well as for women are possible, other second names, independent of gender, can also be chosen.

The application is to be brought to the appropriate district offices, in Vienna to the MA 63 Brigittenau. The change of name costs, when it is with an explanatory statement, 14.30 €, otherwise 545.60 €. Recognised reasons for a change of personal status can be a facilitation of integration of immigrants, as well as for reasons of economic or social disadvantages. If the change of name is explained by transidentity, then a psychotherapist or psychiatric statement will be required.

Medical Facts

Financing

When a diagnosis of transsexualism is given, then the costs of hormone treatment and sex reconstruction surgery will be covered by the health insurance. This includes abdominal hysterectomy, breast removal and phalloplasty for F2M people, and vaginoplasty for M2F people. Most of the treatments including the epilation of the beard and body hair, breast surgery and FFS (facial feminising surgery) have to be paid for by the patients themselves. Most of the costs for psychotherapy have to be met by the patient as well. All treatment carried out abroad will not be reimbursed by the health insurance companies.

Hormone Therapy

The treatment with the hormones of the gender of identity leads to a harmonisation of the outer appearance, as well as infertility, impotence and the absence of menstruation. The growth of beard and depth of voice change for F2M, but not for M2F.

The basic prerequisites are (1) a psychiatric, (2) a clinical psychological as well as (3) a psychotherapeutic diagnosis of "transsexuality". A therapist, who has been nominated as responsible for the treatment, summarises the statements of all involved consultants into one.

The therapist who is responsible for the treatment writes an explicit recommendation for the approval of hormone therapy, which means it will be financed by one of the health insurance companies. This is based on the recommendations of the psychiatric examination, the clinical psychological report and/or the psychotherapist statement.

These examinations are only to be carried out by specialist who are specialised in treating transgender people.

Sex Reconstruction Surgery (SRS)

Gender confirmation operations are seen as cosmetic customising of the primary sexual organs. Risks of complications should not be underestimated. Orgasms are possible after a successful operation, but a functionality as experienced by the wished-for gender, e.g. become pregnant, cannot be accomplish. Lifetime hormone therapy is necessary. The new vaginas need constant care. Phalloplasty is only possible with high risks and many complications in Austria.

Gender confirmation operations can only be carried out at the earliest after one year of hormone therapy. It is also necessary to receive confirmation through a psychiatric examination, the clinical psychological report and/or the psychotherapist statement confirming the permanency of the transgender person's wish to live in that gender

More detailed information can be found in German on [TransX.at](https://www.transx.at).

Individual questions can also be answered by email (transx@transx.at)
or over the telephone (0680 / 24 14 748)