



Isle of Man

Ellan Vannin

AT 11 of 2009

GENDER RECOGNITION ACT 2009



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**Isle of Man***Ellan Vannin*

GENDER RECOGNITION ACT 2009

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AN ACT to make provision for and in connection with change of gender; and for connected purposes.

1 Interpretation

In this Act —

- “**the acquired gender**” means the gender to which the person has changed as a consequence of a full certificate being issued;
- “**full certificate**” means a gender recognition certificate issued as a full gender recognition certificate under the UK Act;
- “**gender recognition certificate**” means a gender recognition certificate (including a corrected certificate) issued under the UK Act and includes a certificate issued before the commencement of this Act;
- “**interim certificate**” means a gender recognition certificate granted as an interim gender recognition certificate under the UK Act; and
- “**the UK Act**” means the Gender Recognition Act 2004 (of Parliament).

2 Effect of gender recognition certificate, etc

[P2004/7/9]

- (1) The fact that a person’s gender has become the acquired gender (so that, if the acquired gender is the male gender, the person’s gender becomes that of a man and, if it is the female gender, the person’s gender becomes that of a woman) does not affect things done, or events occurring, before the full certificate is issued, or before the commencement of this Act, whichever is the later.
- (2) However, it does operate for the interpretation of enactments passed, and public documents made, before such issue or commencement (as well as those passed or made afterwards).

- (3) This section is subject to any statutory provision to the contrary (including provision made by this Act).

3 Civil registration

[P2004/7/Sch 3]

Schedule 1 has effect in respect of registration practice and the related matters provided for in that Schedule.¹

4 Marriage

[P2004/7/11]

Schedule 2 (amendment of marriage law) has effect.

5 Parenthood

[P2004/7/12]

The fact that a person's gender has become the acquired gender does not affect the status of the person as the father or mother of a child.

6 Succession, etc

[P2004/7/15 & 16]

- (1) The fact that a person's gender has become the acquired gender does not affect the disposal or devolution of property under a will or other instrument made before the commencement of this Act.
- (2) The fact that a person's gender has become the acquired gender does not affect the devolution of any property limited (expressly or not) by a will or other instrument to devolve (as nearly as the law permits) along with any peerage or dignity or title of honour unless an intention that it should do so is expressed in the will or other instrument.

7 Trustees and personal representatives

[P2004/7/17]

- (1) A trustee or personal representative is not under a duty, by virtue of the law relating to trusts or the administration of estates, to enquire, before conveying or distributing any property, whether a full certificate has been issued to any person or revoked (if that fact could affect entitlement to the property).
- (2) A trustee or personal representative is not liable to any person by reason of a conveyance or distribution of the property made without regard to whether a full certificate has been issued to any person or revoked if the trustee or personal representative has not received notice of the fact before the conveyance or distribution.
- (3) This section does not prejudice the right of a person to follow the property, or any property representing it, into the hands of another person who has

received it unless that person has purchased it for value in good faith and without notice.

8 Orders where expectations defeated

[P2004/7/18]

- (1) This section applies where the disposition or devolution of any property under a will or other instrument (made on or after the commencement of this Act) is different from what it would be but for the fact that a person's gender has become the acquired gender.
- (2) A person may apply to the High Court for an order on the ground of being adversely affected by the different disposition or devolution of the property.
- (3) The Court may, if it is satisfied that it is just to do so, make in relation to any person benefiting from the different disposition or devolution of the property such order as it considers appropriate.
- (4) An order may, in particular, make provision for —
 - (a) the payment of a lump sum to the applicant;
 - (b) the transfer of property to the applicant;
 - (c) the settlement of property for the benefit of the applicant;
 - (d) the acquisition of property and either its transfer to the applicant or its settlement for the benefit of the applicant.
- (5) An order may contain consequential or supplementary provisions for giving effect to the order or for ensuring that it operates fairly as between the applicant and the other person or persons affected by it; and an order may, in particular, confer powers on trustees.

9 [Repealed]²

10 Gender-specific offences

[P2004/7/20]

- (1) Where (apart from this subsection) a relevant gender-specific offence could be committed or attempted only if the gender of a person to whom a full certificate has been issued were not the acquired gender, the fact that the person's gender has become the acquired gender does not prevent the offence being committed or attempted.
- (2) An offence is a "relevant gender-specific offence" if —
 - (a) either or both of the conditions in subsection (3) are satisfied; and
 - (b) the commission of the offence involves the accused engaging in sexual activity.
- (3) The conditions are —

- (a) that the offence may be committed only by a person of a particular gender; and
 - (b) that the offence may be committed only on, or in relation to, a person of a particular gender,
- and the references to a particular gender include a gender identified by reference to the gender of the other person involved.

11 Foreign gender change

A person's gender is not to be regarded as having changed by reason only that it has changed under the law of a country or territory outside the Island and the United Kingdom.³

12 Prohibition on disclosure of information

[P2004/7/22]

- (1) It is an offence for a person who has acquired protected information in an official capacity to disclose the information to any other person.
- (2) "Protected information" means information which relates to a person who has made an application for a gender recognition certificate and which —
 - (a) concerns that application; or
 - (b) if the application for a gender recognition certificate is granted, otherwise concerns the person's gender before it becomes the acquired gender.
- (3) A person acquires protected information in an official capacity if the person acquires it —
 - (a) in connection with the person's functions as an employee of the Public Services Commission, a constable or the holder of any other public office or in connection with the functions of a public authority or of a voluntary organisation;⁴
 - (b) as an employer, or prospective employer, of the person to whom the information relates or as a person employed by such an employer or prospective employer; or
 - (c) in the course of, or otherwise in connection with, the conduct of business or the supply of professional services.
- (4) But it is not an offence under this section to disclose protected information relating to a person if —
 - (a) the information does not enable that person to be identified;
 - (b) that person has agreed to the disclosure of the information;
 - (c) the information is protected information by virtue of subsection (2)(b) and the person by whom the disclosure is made does not know or believe that a full gender recognition certificate has been issued;

- (d) the disclosure is in accordance with an order of a court or tribunal;
- (e) the disclosure is for the purpose of instituting, or otherwise for the purposes of, proceedings before a court or tribunal;
- (f) the disclosure is for the purpose of preventing or investigating crime;
- (g) the disclosure is made to the Registrar General;⁵
- (h) the disclosure is made by the Registrar General to the Secretary of State in circumstances in which the Registrar General considers that the grant of an interim certificate, a full certificate or a corrected certificate was obtained by fraud;⁶
- (i) the disclosure is made by the Registrar General to the relevant UK Registrar General;⁷
- (j) the disclosure is made for the purposes of the social security system or a pension scheme;
- (k) the disclosure is in accordance with provision made by an order under subsection (5); or
- (l) the disclosure is in accordance with any provision of, or made by virtue of, an enactment other than this section.

In paragraph (i) “the relevant UK Registrar General” means, —

- (i) in relation to England or Wales, the Registrar General for England and Wales;
 - (ii) in relation to Scotland, the Keeper of the Registers of Scotland or the Registrar General for Scotland;
 - (iii) in relation to Northern Ireland, the Registrar General for Northern Ireland.⁸
- (5) The Council of Ministers may by order make provision prescribing circumstances in which the disclosure of protected information is not to constitute an offence under this section.
 - (6) An order under subsection (5) may make provision permitting —
 - (a) disclosure to specified persons or persons of a specified description;
 - (b) disclosure for specified purposes;
 - (c) disclosure of specified descriptions of information; or
 - (d) disclosure by specified persons or persons of a specified description.
 - (7) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.⁹

13 Power to modify statutory provisions

[P2004/7/23]

- (1) The Council of Ministers may by order make provision for modifying the operation of any statutory provision in relation to —
 - (a) persons whose gender has become the acquired gender; or
 - (b) any description of such persons.
- (2) An order under this section shall not come into operation unless it is approved by Tynwald.

14 Validity of subordinate legislation

- (1) The Gender Recognition Act 2004 (Application) Order 2004 [S.D. 875/04] and the Gender Recognition Act 2004 (Application) (No. 2) Order 2004 [S.D. 876/04] shall be treated as always having been validly made.
- (2) The orders mentioned in subsection (1), insofar as they apply section 22 of the UK Act to the Island, shall cease to have effect upon the coming into force of section 12.

15 Short title and commencement

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Gender Recognition Act 2009.
- (2) This Act (other than this section) shall come into operation on such day as the Council of Ministers may by order appoint and different days may be so appointed for different provisions and for different purposes.¹⁰

SCHEDULE 1¹¹**GENDER RECOGNITION - REGISTRATION PRACTICE**

Section 3

Gender Recognition Register and registration

1. (1) The Registrar General shall maintain in the Central Registry a register to be called the Gender Recognition Register.¹²
 - (2) The form in which the Gender Recognition Register is to be maintained shall be determined by the Registrar General.¹³
 - (3) The Gender Recognition Register shall not be open to public inspection or search.
2. (1) Sub-paragraph (2) applies where —
 - (a) there is a Manx birth register entry in relation to a person to whom a full certificate is issued; and
 - (b) the following documents are delivered to the Registrar General by or on behalf of the person to whom the certificate relates —
 - (i) the original full certificate;
 - (ii) a certified copy of the Manx birth register entry of the person to whom that certificate relates; and
 - (iii) such other documentation as may be determined by the Registrar General from time to time.^{14 15}
- (2) Where the documents are delivered under sub-paragraph (1)(b), the Registrar General shall —
 - (a) make a copy of the full certificate (which shall not be available to public inspection or search) and return the original full certificate and certified copy of the Manx birth register entry to the person who delivered them;
 - (b) make an entry in the Gender Recognition Register containing such particulars as may be prescribed in relation to the person's birth and any other prescribed matter; and
 - (c) otherwise than by annotating in any way the birth register, make traceable the connection between the Manx birth register entry and the entry in the Gender Recognition Register.¹⁶
- (3) Sub-paragraph (2) does not apply if the certificate was issued after an application under section 6(1) (corrected certificate) of the UK Act and that sub-paragraph has already been complied with in relation to the person.

(4) The Registrar General may make, or cause to be made, enquiries with such authority in the United Kingdom concerned with the issue of full certificates, as the Registrar General considers necessary or appropriate, prior to making an SC entry in accordance with sub-paragraph (2)(b).¹⁷

(5) Information kept by the Registrar General for the purposes of sub-paragraph (2)(c) shall not be open to public inspection or search.¹⁸

(6) In this paragraph —

“Manx birth register entry”, in relation to a person to whom a full certificate is issued, means —

- (a) an entry of which a certified copy is kept by the Registrar General;
or¹⁹
- (b) an entry in a register so kept,

containing a record of the person’s birth or adoption (or, if there would otherwise be more than one, the most recent);

“prescribed” means prescribed by regulations made by the Department for Enterprise.²⁰

(7) Regulations under this paragraph shall be laid before Tynwald.

Indexing of entries in Gender Recognition Register

3. (1) The Registrar General shall make arrangements for each entry made in the Gender Recognition Register to be included in the relevant index kept in the Central Registry.²¹

(2) Any right to search the relevant index includes the right to search entries included in it by virtue of sub-paragraph (1).

(3) Where by virtue of sub-paragraph (1) an index includes entries in the Gender Recognition Register, the index must not disclose that fact.

(4) In this section “the relevant index”, in relation to an entry made in the Gender Recognition Register in relation to a person, means the index of the certified copies of entries in registers, or of entries in registers, which includes the person’s Manx birth register entry.

Certified copies of entries in Gender Recognition Register

4. (1) Anyone who may have a certified copy of the Manx birth register entry of a person issued with a full certificate may have a certified copy of the entry made in relation to the person in the Gender Recognition Register.

(2) Any fee which would be payable for a certified copy of the person’s Manx birth register entry is payable for a certified copy of the entry made in relation to the person in the Gender Recognition Register.

(3) If the person's Manx birth register entry is an entry in the Gender Recognition Register, sub-paragraph (1) applies as if the person's Manx birth register entry were the most recent entry within paragraph 2(6)(a) or (b) containing a record of the person's birth or adoption which is not an entry in the Gender Recognition Register.

(4) A certified copy of an entry in the Gender Recognition Register must not disclose the fact that the entry is contained in the Gender Recognition Register.

Short certificates of birth compiled from Gender Recognition Register

5. Where a short certificate of birth under section 37 of the *Civil Registration Act 1984* ("the 1984 Act") is compiled from the Gender Recognition Register, the certificate must not disclose that fact.

Gender Recognition Register: re-registration

6. (1) Section 13 of the 1984 Act (re-registration of birth of a non-marital child) applies where an entry relating to a person's birth has been made in the Gender Recognition Register as where the birth of a child has been registered under that Act.

(2) In its application by virtue of sub-paragraph (1) section 13 has effect —

(a) as if the reference to the registrar in subsection (1) were to the Registrar General; and²²

(b) with the omission of subsections (2) and (3).

(3) Sections 17 and 17A of the 1984 Act (re-registration in cases of legitimation and after declaration of parentage) apply where an entry relating to a person's birth has been made in the Gender Recognition Register as if the references in those sections to the Registrar General authorising re-registration of the person's birth were to the Registrar General re-registering it.²³

Entry obtained by fraud

7. (1) A person who, by means of any false statement, representation or document which he or she knows to be false, or by personation or other fraudulent means, obtains or attempts to obtain for himself or herself or another, an entry in the Gender Recognition Register, commits an offence.

(2) A person who commits an offence under this paragraph is liable —

(a) on conviction on indictment, to custody for not more than 2 years, a fine, or both; or

(b) on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.²⁴

(3) Subject to any appeal that affects the validity of an entry in the Gender Recognition Register, if a person is convicted of an offence under this paragraph, the Registrar General must cancel the entry and the traceable connection made in accordance with paragraph 2(2)(c).²⁵

Correction etc. of Gender Recognition Register

8. (1) Any power or duty of the Registrar General or any other person to correct, alter, amend, mark or cancel the marking of a person's Manx birth register entry is exercisable, or falls to be performed, by the Registrar General in relation to an entry in the Gender Recognition Register which —

- (a) relates to that person; and
- (b) under paragraph 3(1) is included in the index which includes the person's Manx birth register entry.²⁶

(2) If the person's Manx birth register entry is an entry in the Gender Recognition Register, the references in sub-paragraph (1) to the person's Manx birth register entry are to the most recent entry within paragraph 2(6)(a) or (b) containing a record of the person's birth or adoption which is not an entry in the Gender Recognition Register.

(3) The Registrar General may correct the Gender Recognition Register by entry in the margin (without any alteration of the original entry) in consequence of the issue of a full certificate after an application under section 6(1) (corrected certificate) of the UK Act.²⁷

Alteration of Gender Recognition Register after revocation of gender recognition certificate

9. (1) This paragraph applies if, after an entry has been made in the Gender Recognition Register in relation to a person, the decision to grant the person's application for a full certificate has been quashed under section 8(6) of the UK Act (power of court where allegation that the grant was secured by fraud).

(2) The person concerned must forthwith inform the Registrar General of the quashing of such a decision.²⁸

(3) Subject to any appeal that affects the grant of a person's application for a full certificate, the Registrar General must cancel the entry in the Gender Recognition Register.²⁹

(4) Any failure to notify the Registrar General as required by sub-paragraph (2) shall be an offence for which the person shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.³⁰

Evidence

10. (1) Section 38(6) of the 1984 Act (certified copy of entry in register under that Act deemed to be true copy) applies in relation to the Gender Recognition Register as if it were a register under that Act.

(2) A certified copy of an entry made in the Gender Recognition Register in relation to a person is to be received, without further or other proof, as evidence —

- (a) if the relevant index is the index of the Adopted Children Register maintained under section 38(1) of the *Adoption Act 1984*, of the matters of which a certified copy of an entry in that Register is evidence;
- (b) if the relevant index is the index of the Parental Order Register maintained under regulations made under section 89(8)(a) of the *Children and Young Persons Act 2001*, of the matters of which a certified copy of an entry in that Register is evidence; and
- (c) otherwise, of the person's birth.

SCHEDULE 2³¹

AMENDMENT OF ENACTMENTS RELATING TO MARRIAGE

The Schedule amends the following Act —

Matrimonial Proceedings Act 2003 q.v.

ENDNOTES

Table of Legislation History

Legislation	Year and No	Commencement

Table of Renumbered Provisions

Original	Current

Table of Endnote References

¹ S 3 operative 31/7/2010 (SD515/10).

² S 9 repealed by Equality Act 2017 Sch 24.

³ S 11 substituted by SD2016/0193.

⁴ Para (a) amended by Public Services Commission Act 2015 Sch.

⁵ Para (g) amended by Central Registry Act 2018 Sch.

⁶ Para (h) amended by Central Registry Act 2018 Sch.

⁷ Para (i) substituted by Central Registry Act 2018 Sch.

⁸ Subs (4) amended by Central Registry Act 2018 Sch.

⁹ Subs (7) amended by Fines and Penalties Act 2024 Sch 5.

¹⁰ ADO (whole Act except s 3 and Sch 1) 6/4/2010 (SD139/10) (s 3 and Sch 1) 31/7/2010 (SD515/10).

¹¹ Sch 1 operative 31/7/2010 (SD515/10).

¹² Subpara (1) amended by Central registry Act 2018 Sch.

¹³ Subpara (2) amended by Central registry Act 2018 Sch.

¹⁴ Subpara (iii) amended by Central registry Act 2018 Sch.

¹⁵ Subpara (1) amended by Central registry Act 2018 Sch.

¹⁶ Subpara (2) amended by Central registry Act 2018 Sch.

¹⁷ Subpara (4) amended by Central registry Act 2018 Sch.

¹⁸ Subpara (5) amended by Central registry Act 2018 Sch.

¹⁹ Para (a) amended by Central registry Act 2018 Sch.

²⁰ Definition of “prescribed” substituted by Central Registry Act 2018 Sch.

²¹ Subpara (1) amended by Central registry Act 2018 Sch.

²² Para (a) amended by Central registry Act 2018 Sch.

²³ Subpara (3) amended by Central registry Act 2018 Sch.

²⁴ Para (b) amended by Fines and Penalties Act 2024 Sch 5.

²⁵ Subpara (3) amended by Central registry Act 2018 Sch.

²⁶ Subpara (1) amended by Central registry Act 2018 Sch.

²⁷ Subpara (3) amended by Central registry Act 2018 Sch.

²⁸ Subpara (2) amended by Central registry Act 2018 Sch.

²⁹ Subpara (3) amended by Central registry Act 2018 Sch.

³⁰ Subpara (4) amended by Central registry Act 2018 Sch and by Fines and Penalties Act 2024 Sch 5.

³¹ Sch 2 amended by Marriage and Civil Registration (Amendment) Act 2011 Sch 5 effective 1/8/2011