

Ministry of
Government Services

Office of the Registrar General

P.O. Box 4600
189 Red River Road
Thunder Bay ON P7B 6L8
Telephone: 1-800-461-2156
1-416-325-8305

Ministère des Services
gouvernementaux

Bureau du Registraire général

C.P. 4600
189 Red River Road
Thunder Bay ON P7B 6L8
Téléphone: 1-800-461-2156
1-416-325-8305



Memorandum

To: See distribution list attached

From: Judi Hartman
Director and Deputy Registrar General
Office of the Registrar General

Date: July 3, 2007

Re: Change of Name Act Amendment for Transgendered Individuals

I am writing to inform you about a new regulation under the *Change of Name Act*, involving transgendered individuals. Currently, when an individual legally changes his or her name, the Office of the Registrar General (ORG) is usually required to publish the change in *The Ontario Gazette*. This provision of the Act is a way of notifying the public of the name change.

The Government of Ontario recognizes that a legal name change is a significant event for many transgendered individuals and that the publication of such name changes may have a potentially harmful impact on the privacy interests of some individuals. Therefore, as of July 3, 2007, transgendered individuals may seek exemption from publication of a legal name change in *The Ontario Gazette*.

A transgendered individual may request exemption by including a request form or letter with the individual's change of name application stating that he or she is transgendered and wishes to have the change of name notice excluded from publication. This form is available from the ORG by request. All other requirements of the change of name application remain the same. The current requirements under section 8 of the *Change of Name Act* to notify the appropriate authorities of name changes for persons with unsatisfied court orders, outstanding liens, undischarged bankruptcies, pending court proceedings and criminal convictions will be maintained.

As your organization works with this clientele, I am hoping that you will share this information accordingly. Your clients may also contact the Office of the Registrar General toll free in North America at 1-800-461-2156, in Toronto at 416-325-8305 or visit the Ministry of Government Services website at www.ServiceOntario.ca for more information.

Thank you for your continued support.

Attachment: Distribution list

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Distribution List – July 3, 2007

College of Physicians and Surgeons

EGALE Canada – Ensuring Gay and Lesbian Equality

Canadian Human Rights Commission

Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario

Ontario Federation of Community Mental Health and Addiction Programs

Psychiatric Patient Advocate Office

Ontario Public Health Association

Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario

Office of the Ombudsman of Ontario

AIDS Committee of Toronto

519 Church Street Community Centre