

Change of Identity Details for Young People: Video Script

Change of Identity Details for Young People

If you are under the age of 16 and want to change your first name, names or sex on your birth certificate, but one of your parents do not agree, you can apply to the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal for permission to go to Access Canberra.

You can fill in the application form online on the ACAT website or download and complete the form and email, post or give it to us in person. If you need assistance when filling in the form, please contact us.

After we get your application, we will make a time to talk with you about it. We call this a 'directions hearing'. Usually, you will need to come into ACAT for the directions hearing and the final hearing.

We know coming to ACAT will be a new experience, but it is important that we hear from you.

At the directions hearing, we will talk about things like what will happen at the final hearing and how to prepare for it. We know talking about these things can be difficult, so you can bring along a friend or support person, if you wish. We will try to make it as easy and comfortable for you as we can.

If you prefer to do the hearing over the phone or a video call, tell us and we'll decide if that is an option.

We know people communicate in different ways. We want to make sure that you are heard. If there is a certain way that you would like to talk with us, please let us know.

ACAT will give a copy of your application to the public advocate and may decide to give it to your parents. If you think you will be badly affected, you can tell us you do not want your parent/s to know about your application or get a copy of your application; or you do not want your parent/s to get some of the information in or attached to your application. We will consider what you tell us, and decide whether to tell your parents or guardian. If we do decide to tell your parents, we will tell you first and let you stop your application if you want to.

We'll ask you to come into ACAT again for the final hearing. At the final hearing, it's ACAT's job to ask you what you have to say about making this decision for yourself. We will also speak with your parents and the public advocate about what they think about your decision.

If we are satisfied that you understand the meaning of the change, and that the change better reflects your gender identity, we will give you permission to ask Access Canberra to change your name and/or sex on your birth certificate.

We know that this is very personal decision. You may not want people to find out.

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The hearing will be private which means that your name won't be made public and the public cannot come to the hearing. Only people that the ACAT member allows can be at the hearing. This includes you, your support person, the public advocate and may include your parents.

At ACAT we understand that talking about what you want can be difficult. We will help you through the process and listen to you. If you need any help, please ask us.

You'll find a list of people and organisations who can give you help and support on our website.

To find out more, you can telephone, email, visit us in person, or go to our website.