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How does the confirmation of gender affect your rights and obligations?

As a rule, the confirmed gender is considered your gender when applying legislation, such as the Conscription Act (1438/2007) and the Act on Equality between Women and Men (609/1986). Exceptions include certain provisions on the determination of health care and parenthood, which are described below.

Conscription Act

The confirmed gender is considered your gender when applying the Conscription Act.

According to the legislation, every male Finnish citizen has a military service obligation from the beginning of the year in which they turn 18. The conscription usually only ends at the end of the year in which the person reaches the age of 60.

In addition, men aged 18-29 are drafted to military service. In other words, if you confirm your gender as male and are between 18 and 29 years old, you will be invited to an examination to assess your eligibility for service. If you confirm your gender as male when you are between 30 and 60 years old, you will be counted as a person who has not completed military service and who is in the reserve.

Act on Equality between Women and Men

As a rule, the confirmed gender is considered your gender when applying the quota provision of the Act on Equality between Women and Men. According to the quota, certain state, wellbeing services county and municipal bodies must have at least 40% of both women and men, unless otherwise provided for a special reason.

Health care provisions

The provisions on pregnant women, women who are breastfeeding, or who have given birth apply regardless of the confirmation of gender. This means that you are entitled to medically justified or necessary services regardless of your legal gender. If you participate in medical research as a test subject, you will be subject to the legislation particularly protecting pregnant test subjects.

When the Act on Assisted Fertility Treatments (1237/2006) or the Act on Forensic Genetic Paternity Tests (378/2005) are applied, your gender is considered to be your gender assigned at birth.

The Government Decree on Screenings (339/2011) contains provisions on the right to participate in screenings.

- Participants are only invited to screenings on the basis of their legal gender.
- Those who have confirmed their gender as female have the right to participate in breast cancer screenings.
- A person who has confirmed their gender as male has the right to participate in breast cancer and cervical screenings for women. Participation in these screenings requires initiative from your part because you will not be automatically invited to them. Familiarise yourself with the information provided by your wellbeing services



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county on the organisation of screenings so that you can find the appropriate services.

Determination of parenthood

The person who gave birth to the child is the child's mother regardless of their legal gender. The parenthood of the other parent depends on the parent's legal gender and whether the parents are married to each other.

Provisions on the determination of parenthood are laid down in the parenthood act (775/2022).

The mother is married to a man.

If the mother's spouse is a man of their legal gender when the child is born, they are automatically the child's father.

The mother is married to a woman.

If the mother's spouse's legal gender is female when the child is born, they are not automatically the child's second mother. Instead, they must acknowledge their parenthood and we will confirm it if the spouses have received fertility treatment together and no father is identified or confirmed for the child.

If the mother's spouse is a person assigned male at birth who has impregnated the mother, they will be confirmed as the father even if their legal gender is female.

Read below how fertility treatment affects the determination of parenthood.

The mother and the father are not married

If the mother and the child's father are not married when the child is born, paternity is confirmed by a decision of the Digital and Population Data Services Agency or a court of law. The father of the child is then regardless of their legal gender:

- the person who has impregnated the mother or
- the person whose sperm has been used for maternal fertilisation other than by impregnating and the child was born as a result of this (e.g. by a so-called home insemination).

The child is born through fertility treatment

If the child is born through fertility treatment, parenthood is determined by the parent's legal gender when they have consented to fertility treatment:

- If the parent's legal gender was male, they become the child's father.
- If the parent's legal gender was a woman, they become the child's mother.

An exception to this is, however, a situation in which the treatment has been given to a female couple or only to the mother who gave birth to the child, and the person whose sperm has been used in the treatment has agreed to confirm paternity. In this case, the person whose sperm has been used for treatment is confirmed as the child's father, regardless of their legal gender at the time of consent.



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Will maternity become paternity or vice versa when the parent's gender is confirmed?

Maternity or paternity recorded in the Population Information System does not change when the child's parent confirms their gender. This is legal family status information that cannot be changed.

For this reason, a parenthood title will be added to the Population Information System, i.e. information on whether the parent is the child's mother or father. You can apply to change the title at or after confirmation of gender from 1 March 2024. You can also apply for a change for children born before 1 March 2024.

Your personal identity code will change. What are the practical implications?

Your personal identity code will change when you confirm your gender. After that, you will no longer be able to use your current identity documents, so you will need to renew them.

In addition, your electronic identification number will automatically change. This also affects many practical matters. For example, you cannot

- identify yourself using your old means of identification, such as online banking codes, in electronic systems, such as Kela's My Kanta, or submit a new passport application online
- log in to your current Suomi.fi Messages account.

Who is notified of the changed personal identity code?

The following parties, among others, will be notified of your changed personal identity code through the Population Information System:

- several authorities
- banks
- insurance corporations
- Private sector partners of the Digital and Population Data Services Agency, who forward changes to organisations that are allowed to process personal identity codes in their registers.

However, remember to report the matter yourself to

- smaller companies whose customer you are
- authorities that do not maintain their customer register with the Population Information System data.

What should I do when my personal identity code changes?

- Get a new ID card, passport and driving licence.
- Contact your bank for new online banking codes and to close the codes with your old information. Before the change, make sure you have enough cash because you may not be able to withdraw money from an ATM or pay with your old debit and credit cards before the new ones arrive.
- Ask your telecommunications operator to close your mobile certificate.



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- Pick up a new SIM card from your telecommunications operator for your mobile phone in person after receiving a new electronic ID card or passport.
- Contact the customer service at OmaPosti to connect your OmaPosti account to your new personal identity code.

Health care

You will automatically receive a new Kela card with the new information, but your health data will not automatically be transferred to your new personal identity code in Kela's My Kanta service. Your data will be retrieved using your former personal identity code, but you will not be able to access it electronically until it is linked to your new personal identity code. For this reason, you will have to use your services and on behalf of your possible dependants in person at health care offices for some time.

Prescriptions with your former personal identity code will not be transferred to your new personal identity code. Therefore, contact the physician who wrote the prescriptions so that they can write you new prescriptions and invalidate the previous ones. Make sure you have enough of the medications you need so that they don't run out.

Please note the following:

- your consent is required for changes to prescriptions
- the physician cannot correct the personal identity code in the prescription, but must write a completely new prescription
- electronic prescriptions do not automatically change to a new personal identity code.

In some health care situations, the gender assigned at birth has an impact. Such situations may arise, for example, in the interpretation of laboratory values or in medical examinations. In such situations, it is important to inform health care staff about the confirmation of gender so that they can take it into account in your treatment.

If your personal identity code changes during elections

If your personal identity code changes during the elections, the impact of the change depends on whether your personal identity code changes before or after the establishment of the voting register. The register is established seven weeks before the election day.

If your personal identity code changes

- before setting up the voting register, you must have a new document indicating your identity in order to vote
- after the establishment of the voting register, you can:
 - prove your identity at the polling station with a previous document proving your identity; or
 - submit a claim for a revised decision to the Digital and Population Data Services Agency so that we can correct your personal identity code in the voting register. In this case, you must vote with a new identity document, so make sure you have time to get it.

If you are elected as a candidate, the voting register must contain your correct personal identity code. Otherwise, you will not be eligible as a candidate. In other words, if your personal identity code changes after the establishment of the voting register, submit a claim



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for a revised decision to the Digital and Population Data Services Agency so that we can correct your personal identity code in the voting register.

Your former personal data will remain in old documents

It is not possible to completely prevent your former personal data from appearing, as they remain, for example, in the Population Information System and in archived documents that cannot be changed afterwards. However, your data will not be disclosed from the Population Information System to parties other than those strictly defined by law.

If necessary, you can ask educational institutions and employers for education or work certificates with your new personal data.

If you live abroad

Please note that even if your gender has been confirmed in Finland, the legislation of your country of residence determines whether the register data concerning your gender will also be corrected in the official systems of your country of residence.

Confirming your gender again after your gender has already been confirmed

You can submit a new application to confirm gender at the earliest once one year has passed since the previous confirmation of gender. However, a new application can be submitted for a particularly weighty reason before the end of the one-year period. Such a particularly weighty reason may be related to your health, for example.

Your original personal identity code cannot be returned even if you return to your gender specified at birth. Instead, you will receive a new personal identity code.