

# THE "GENDER AFFIRMATIVE" TREATMENT MODEL

Despite the fact that there are no long term studies to support medical interventions for children who are confused about their sex, parents are increasingly being told<sup>29</sup> by medical professionals<sup>30</sup> to assume that the best way to treat<sup>31</sup> their child's transgender feelings is with social and medical transition. This treatment protocol recommends a "social transition" in early childhood, puberty blockers in early adolescence, and cross-sex hormones for teenagers, steps that are progressively more difficult to reverse and inhibit a child's ability to accept their sex.<sup>32</sup>

## THE GENDER AFFIRMATIVE MODEL

	Examples	Ages	Risks
<b>Social Transition</b>	Change hairstyle, clothing, name, pronouns, access restrooms of the opposite sex	Toddlers to adults	Increases likelihood of persistence
<b>Puberty Blockers</b>	Gonadotropin-releasing hormone analogs such as leuprolide and histrelin	Early puberty, around 9-11	Brittle bones, joint problems, <sup>32</sup> impaired memory. <sup>33</sup> Puberty blocked kids go on to use cross-sex hormones in nearly 100% of cases, <sup>34</sup> which causes permanent sterility.
<b>Cross-Sex Hormones</b>	Testosterone for girls, Estrogen, plus androgen inhibitor for boys	Around 14 to adult	Sterility if used after puberty blockers. For women: lowered voice, weight gain, balding, possible cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, bone density loss, and increased risk of cancers (breast, cervical, ovarian, and uterine). For men: breast growth, gallstones, weight gain, blood clots, sexual dysfunction, possible cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, and breast cancer. <sup>35</sup>
<b>Sex Reassignment Surgery</b>	"Top" surgery: Double mastectomy or breast implants; "bottom" surgery: Alterations to or removal of, genitalia or reproductive organs	Around 14 to adult	Loss of sensation, infections, irreversibility. Post-surgical complications to genital SRS are common in both men and women. <sup>36</sup>
<b>Legal Document Changes</b>	Changing sex recorded on birth certificates, school records, or other official identification	Any age	Inaccurate recording of vital statistics; mistaken sex in medical care.

- The "gender affirmative" approach includes a "social transition" for children as young as two years old, which entails dressing them in clothing typical of the opposite sex, changing their hairstyle and name, and making use of opposite-sex restrooms. **When children socially transition, studies show that they are less likely to become comfortable with their biological sex and they end up on a fast-moving conveyor belt towards hormones and surgery.**<sup>38</sup>

Minnesota Family Council