



Gender & Sexuality Terms

Gender: how an individual perceives themselves, may be different than what sex they were assigned at birth

Sex: refers to physical markers and genetic differences (i.e. genitalia); most commonly male, female, and intersex

Gender identity: your innermost concept of self; how individuals perceive themselves and what they call themselves

Sexual orientation: an inherent emotional, romantic, and/or sexual attraction to other people

Gender expression: external appearance or manifestation of one's gender identity; examples include clothing and hair styles

Cisgender: describes a person whose gender identity matches the sex they were assigned at birth

Transgender: describes a person whose gender identity does not match the sex they were assigned at birth

Gender transition: the social and/or physical process by which someone strives to more closely align their gender with the outer world



The Forensic Interview and the LGBTQIA+ Community

For training, technical assistance, or questions regarding forensic interviews with LGBTQIA+ children, please contact:

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LGBTQIA+ Terms and Definitions

Lesbian: a woman who is attracted to a woman

Gay: umbrella term for LGBTQIA+ identities; a man who is attracted to a man

Bisexual: someone who is attracted to their gender and other genders

Transgender: someone whose gender identity does not match the sex they were assigned at birth

Queer: umbrella term for the LGBTQIA+ community

Intersex: someone who is born with reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't fit the traditional definitions of "female" or "male." Reflects the true variation of sex as a spectrum.

Asexual: someone who lacks sexual attraction and/or an interest in sex

+ **Pansexual:** someone who is attracted to all genders

+ **Two Spirit:** an indigenous person who fulfills multiple gender roles traditionally found in their indigenous culture; may also act as an indigenous umbrella term for LGBTQIA+ identities

+ **Gender non-binary/gender non-conforming:** someone whose gender characteristics and/or behaviors do not align with traditional societal gender expectations

+ **Gender fluid:** someone whose gender changes, shifts, or fluctuates