

Trans-Specific Precautions

Male-to-female transsexuals additionally have to keep in mind that after having spent time on hormone therapy, they lose much of the strength and energy that they may be accustomed to -- and as women, they may also be subject to more predation than they realize. One must not be overconfident, and instead should take some time to learn practical self-defense.

On Disclosure

For pre-operative or non-op transsexuals (sometimes even for post-ops, as surgical status sometimes does not mean much to the transphobic) disclosure is a serious issue, and there is in fact no "right" or "wrong" answer to that question. In an ideal situation, it would be best to be up-front at a time in which your privacy is protected (i.e. an online dating service which does not publish your contact information), before any other serious discussion or activity takes place. If the date is still interested, it's usually safe to proceed (with the suggestions above). In reality, there can be concerns and dissatisfactions with the type of people available to be found in these situations, and live contact can be preferable. Then, it gets iffier.

Disclosing has its risks. Whether before or after dating, transphobia can cause people to react violently, or vindictively (in the latter case, outing you to friends, the public and perhaps other potentially violent persons). It's not impossible for such a situation to lead to a later ambush. Disclosure after or during dating does have a higher degree of risk from the date him or herself, however, so this should be considered.

Telling is up to a person's discretion. But what is absolutely crucial is knowing who you're talking to. When trans issues appear in the news (i.e. the "pregnant man," the civil rights fights in Maryland, Colorado and Gainesville), they can usually be safely brought up in casual conversation as a way to see how a person will react to the subject (bring it up neutrally, -- i.e. you express no opinion -- or you could out yourself just from that). Before that, get to know how liberal (s)he is on other civil rights issues, GLB, racial, feminism, workplace equality. If (s)he's closed-minded to key parts of these or a majority, your date could be a timebomb, and you're safer to not proceed further.

If (s)he seems pretty liberal, it's not a guarantee (s)he'll accept. But it improves the odds considerably.



<http://www.albertatrans.org/>

Edmonton: The Pride Centre of Edmonton on:

9540 - 111 Ave. / 780-488-3234

Calgary: Calgary Outlink:

#4, 1230A 17th Avenue SW /

403.234.8973

Safe Dating



AlbertaTrans.org



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Safe Dating, The Silent Alarm, & Signs of Predation

This advice is for anyone in a risky dating situation, i.e. for pre- or non-op transsexuals, queer communities, online dating communities, sex trade or adult entertainment performance situations, or even just simple everyday blind dates. This is written without prejudice, in the understanding that in no circumstance does a person ever deserve to become a casualty.

