

# AEGIS provides protective shield for transsexuals and transvestites

The Atlanta Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS) is a not-for-profit business which disseminates information to persons interested in issues of gender.

AEGIS provides free referrals to support groups and gender clinics as well as free referrals to physicians, psychologists, psychiatrists, social agencies and private social workers, ministers, and attorneys to those people not within range of a gender support group. A worldwide data base of helping professionals includes surgeons who perform sex reassignment.

The organization's publications include the *Chrysalis Quarterly*, published four times a year, a series of booklets to aid in gender transition, and other publications in preparation.

AEGIS works actively with others in the community, exchanging newsletters, information, and referrals, and helping to organize cooperative projects and events.

AEGIS supports the "Standards of Care" of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, Inc. and makes referrals contingent upon documentation of adherence to these standards. In addition, AEGIS actively supports the professionalization and standardization of services for transgendered persons, including the nonjudgmental and nondiscriminatory treatment of persons with gender dysphoria. AEGIS also advocates respect for their dignity, their right to treatment, and their right to choose their gender.

AEGIS was founded by and is

managed by Dallas Denny, M.A., a human service professional with knowledge of the professional literature of gender issues and more than a decade of experience in the delivery of psychological services.

The first aegis was the shield or breastplate used by the Greek god Zeus and later by his daughter, Athena. Now, the word "aegis" means variously "shield," "protection," and "sponsorship."

"We will strive to live up to our acronym by at all times maintaining confidentiality and by helping transgendered persons make reasoned and informed decisions about the ways in which they will live their lives," Denny said.

For more information on AEGIS, write to P.O. Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033, or call (404) 939-0244.

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