

Sex poser ⁵ for gaolers

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PONTIAC, MICH: Ricardo Ellington is going to prison — but officials do not know whether it will be a women's or men's gaol because the admitted thief of women's clothes is half-way through a series of sex change operations.

“He's far enough along in the procedure that the guys in Jackson (Southern Michigan Prison) would kick down the doors just to get him in,” says his defence lawyer, Mr Howard Arnkoff. Ellington, who likes to be called Raquel, thinks and acts like a woman, Mr Arnkoff said.

He wants Ellington sentenced to a prison for women, but the Oakland County Circuit Court judge, Mr George Laplata, said he could find no legal guidelines to help him decide.

Mr Laplata said he would rely on the testimony of an expert before making his decision. An authority on gender identification, Dr Mario Petrini, will testify in court.

Ellington, aged 25, has pleaded guilty to possessing stolen women's clothing. He requires one more operation before the sex change is complete, court officials said.

Ellington has female characteristics on the upper part of the body and male on the lower.—AP.