

JOSEPH COGGIN, 31, lives in a women's Salvation Army hostel in Hopetown Street, Stepney and is registered at a woman's employment exchange, but when he appeared at Marlborough Street Court, in spite of his female clothing and long hair, he had spent eight days on remand at Brixton Prison.

Coggin pleaded guilty to dishonestly handling four antique clocks, worth about £400, which he claimed to have found in a case on a heap of rubbish in the West End. He had been arrested when he tried to sell one of the clocks at an antique shop.

Detective Sgt. Gilbert Randall told the Bench that Coggin had said that he was receiving treatment at Guy's Hospital and was undergoing a sex change.

This seemed to be confirmed by the fact that it was true that he was living at a women's hostel.

"I would like to make it clear that I am a transvestite," said Coggin. "For five years I have been under Guy's and they are trying to help me by getting me legally accepted as a female without changing my sex or by changing my sex.

They understand my problem and got me a job as a chambermaid. Everywhere I go I am accepted as a female. I am registered at the employment exchange as a female and I live in a female hostel where they know all about me."

Coggin was conditionally discharged for a year.

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