

Navigating Name & Gender Marker Changes in Michigan



The latest information for those contemplating Name & Gender Marker Changes

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WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A LEGAL NAME CHANGE?

They vary by State

SPECIFICALLY FOR MICHIGAN:

- ❖ Petition For Name Change (PNC) filed in County Circuit Court (Form PC 51)
- ❖ For minors (under 16), a parent or legal guardian must file the petition
- ❖ 22 years of age or older, fingerprints taken & sent to Michigan State Police (MSP) &
- ❖ Criminal Background Check done by MSP (approximately 2 months)
- ❖ Publication of Notice for Legal Name Change, at least 14 Days prior to Scheduled Court Date
- ❖ Resident of County for 12 Months prior to filing the Petition

(forms can be found as PDF files at www.courts.mi.gov/SCAO)



83 Counties in Michigan,
All have the same requirements

Procedures differ by county.
Contact your County Clerk for
the procedure(s) to be followed.



HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

To File Your Petition with The Court	\$175 (waivable for cause)
Fingerprints Taken *	Varies by Jurisdiction
Criminal Background Check Done by MSP	\$ 45 (not waivable)
Publication of Notice of Legal Name Change **	Varies by Publisher
Court Hearing Fee (paid on Hearing Date)	\$ 10 (not waivable)
Certified Copies of the Signed Court Order	Varies by County

* My recommendation – Go to your local MSP Post

** Waivable, if there is a compelling reason



DO I NEED A LAWYER?

An Attorney is not required to complete the Petition for Legal Name Change, nor to file your petition with The Court.

However, if you are a **convicted felon**, I strongly recommend that you consult with an Attorney. It is far more difficult, if not impossible, for a **convicted felon** to obtain a Legal Name Change. Unfortunately, The Court assumes there is fraudulent intent.

If you are uneasy or lack the confidence to do this on your own, please contact an Attorney. If you cannot afford an Attorney, contact the Legal Aid Society, other Legal Advocacy Groups (including local colleges or universities), or your County Clerk's office.



CHANGING YOUR GENDER MARKER

Gender Markers appear in many identification records, including (not limited to):

- ❖ Birth Certificate
- ❖ Driver's License
- ❖ Social Security Files
- ❖ Health Insurance Cards & Files
- ❖ Employment Records
- ❖ Passports
- ❖ School Records



CHANGING YOUR GENDER MARKER (cont.)

Please investigate your State of Birth for their specific requirements or prohibitions regarding changing of Gender Markers on Birth Certificates.

In Michigan, there are separate & different requirements regarding changing your Gender Marker on a Driver's License (or state-issued ID) and Birth Certificate. For your Driver's License or State ID, you can execute an affidavit at any Secretary of State Office to have your Gender Marker changed on those documents.

However, to change your Birth Certificate, Michigan still requires an affidavit from your surgeon(s) indicating you have undergone gender-affirming surgery. Acceptable surgeries include Breast Augmentation, Mastectomy, Orchiectomy, or Vaginoplasty, among others. Complete & mail form DCH-0847 CHGBX Rev 2-20, along with a check for \$50.00.



CHANGING YOUR GENDER MARKER (cont.)

The requirements for getting your Gender Marker changed on your U.S. Passport (book or card) are less stringent. You must submit (to the U.S. Passport Agency) a letter from one Medical Health Professional stating that you are currently being treated for Gender Dysphoria. The wording of these letters is very specific as to content and will determine whether you obtain a 10 year or 2 year Passport (Book or Card). **Please contact a qualified Medical Professional who is very familiar with this requirement.** If you currently have no Healthcare Professional, or your Professional is unfamiliar with the required wording, you can contact the Comprehensive Gender Services at the University of Michigan Health System. Their number is (734) 998-2154.



CHANGING YOUR GENDER MARKER (cont.)

To obtain a new passport with your changed Gender Marker, please complete the following items:

- ❖ Obtain Form DS-11, Application for New Passport, from www.travel.state.gov
- ❖ If you already have a valid (or expired) U. S. Passport, **do not use** Form DS-82, Passport Renewal Form
- ❖ Complete the form and gather all required documentation, including your letters
- ❖ Make copies of your documentation, since the copies will have to be submitted with your application
- ❖ Obtain two color pictures, consistent with the requirements outlined in the application
- ❖ Appear before a local, authorized Passport Agent, as listed at the website
- ❖ Pay the appropriate fee and submit your application, per the instructions

Once you obtain your new passport, you can use it to get your Gender Marker changed at Social Security and on your MI Driver's License or State ID card. This is an alternative to signing the affidavit at the Secretary of State Office.



CONGRATULATIONS!

YOU CHANGED YOUR NAME
WHAT ELSE NEEDS TO BE CHANGED?

Most Individuals:

- ❖ Driver's License or State ID
- ❖ Passport (Book or Card)
- ❖ Social Security Account
- ❖ Bank Accounts
- ❖ Birth Certificate (if possible)

Students:

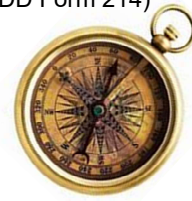
- ❖ School ID
- ❖ Transcripts
- ❖ Other school records

Adults & Professionals:

- ❖ Auto Registration(s)
- ❖ Auto Insurance
- ❖ Credit Cards
- ❖ Employee ID
- ❖ Employer Personnel Records
- ❖ Health Insurance
- ❖ Home/Renters' Insurance
- ❖ Home Mortgage
- ❖ Home Title/Deed
- ❖ Military Discharge Records (DD Form 214)
- ❖ Professional Certifications



**HAVE A WRITTEN PLAN TO COVER EVERYTHING THAT
NEEDS TO BE CHANGED!**



HOW DO I CHANGE -

Driver's License/State ID Card

Bring copy of the signed Court Order (PNC) to any MI Secretary of State (SOS) office and complete the application for your Driver's License. If you are changing your Gender Marker as well, please bring your new U.S. Passport (Book or Card), or complete the affidavit.

Social Security Account

Name Change Only – Bring copy of the signed Court Order (PNC) to any Social Security Administration (SSA) office, along with current identification (Driver's License or Passport).
Name Change & Gender Marker - bring your U.S. Passport (Book or Card).



HOW DO I CHANGE (cont.)

School ID, Transcripts, Other Records

Contact your School Administration for procedures & requirements *

Bank Accounts

Bring your current identification, a copy of the signed Court Order (PNC), and your Bank Account Information to your bank

Automobile Registration(s)

Bring a copy of the signed Court Order (PNC), current Registration documents, and Proof of Insurance to any SOS office

Credit Cards and Personal Loans

Please contact the Issuer/Lender for their specific requirements.



* **PLEASE NOTE:** Schools in Michigan are required to change your name(s) as reflected in their records, when presented with a signed Court Order (PNC). They are under no obligation to change Gender Markers, regardless of the circumstances.



HOW DO I CHANGE (cont.)

Insurance Policies (Auto, Health, Home, Life, Renter's)

Contact the Issuer(s) for procedures & requirements. In most cases, submitting a copy of the signed Court Order (PNC) is sufficient. For Health Insurance, you may also need to provide a copy of your new passport (Book or Card), or the letters from your Health Care Professionals, in order to change your Gender Marker

Professional Certifications/Licenses

Please contact the Certifying Authority or the Issuer for their specific requirements



HOW DO I CHANGE (cont.)

Employment Records (Past & Current Employer(s))

Know your Employers' Policies & Requirements. Contact the Human Resources (HR) Department prior to your decision to Transition and requesting your Name Change

Home Deed/Title

Please contact your City/Township Clerk to determine procedures & requirements. You can file a Quitclaim Deed with your County Clerk, to transfer all rights in your property from your old to new name. No attorney is required, but there is a Filing Fee



HOW DO I CHANGE (cont.)

Military Discharge Records
(DD Form 214)

Contrary to popular belief, it is not possible to have your Military Records changed locally, at a Veterans' Administration (VA) facility. You must obtain and complete DD Form 149, Application for Correction of Military Record, then submit it to the appropriate Branch Review Agency. The form and detailed instructions for its completion are found at <http://dpcio.defense.gov>

Expect to wait (potentially) up to 12 months for a determination to be made, once you submit your request



IN CONCLUSION

- ❖ Name and Gender Marker changes are daunting, but not impossible.
- ❖ Under normal circumstances, no attorney is required.
- ❖ Sequence of events is important:
 - Petition for Name Change (PNC/Form PC 51)
 - U.S. Passport (Book or Card)
 - Everything else
- ❖ Know, and understand, the particular procedures for your Michigan County.
- ❖ Outside of Michigan, know your particular state's requirements & procedures.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



QUESTIONS?