

Name Change (general recommendations)

Updated 12/20/22

1. Change your name in the current city/state that you live in, residency requirements may apply
 - a. Petition to the court
 - i. Fill out and submit documents
 - ii. Get fingerprinted and send for FBI background check for state of MI (if over age 22)
 - b. Publish a notice of name change in a newspaper
 - i. Within certain time limit of court order (varies by state)
 - ii. May require a minimum amount of announcement (such as once a week for 1 month)
 - iii. Publication requirements may be waived for victims of violence or abuse
 - c. Bring all notarized name change documents to Secretary of State (DMV) to get new identification card
 - i. Each state will have different requirements to change gender markers on ID's, will generally refer to what is currently on your birth certificate
 - d. Additional notarized copies can be requested from the county court for a fee
2. After all documents and identifications are changed, you can petition to change your birth certificate as applicable
 - a. Based on state birth certificate was issued in transequality.org/documents/

State of Michigan

- Requirements can be found at <https://michiganlegalhelp.org/self-help-tools/family/i-want-change-my-name#the-process-and-requirements>
- Do-It-Yourself <https://michiganlegalhelp.org/self-help-tools/family/do-it-yourself-name-change>
- Cost - \$175
 - Fee Waivers can be found at <https://michiganlegalhelp.org/self-help-tools/miscellaneous/fee-waivers-court-cases>

State of Illinois/Chicago (Cook County)

- Print and fill out the forms from the website (http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/.../approved/na.../name_change.asp)
 - Make 2 copies of each form (Request for Name Change, Publication of Court Date for Name Change, Order for Name Change, and Fee Waiver form if applicable). The website says 3 total, but I only needed 2.
 - NOTE: THE WITNESS FOR THE REQUEST OF NAME CHANGE CANNOT BE A FAMILY MEMBER.
- If you cannot afford the \$300+ fee to file the name change and then the \$9/copy for copies of the order of name change, fill out the fee waiver.
 - It's similar to a tax form and you'll have to go to a hearing to decide if you're eligible. When I went, the fee waiver hearing was around 4pm, but call before you go to be sure. Form (<https://www.illinois.gov/.../Documents/Forms/Fee%20Waiver.pdf>).
- When all forms are filled out, go to the 12th floor of the Courthouse on 50 W. Washington, room is 1202.

- You'll stand in the cashier line and show all your forms. Go up there after going to the hearing for a fee waiver unless you just want to do double work of going to the hearing then going back to the 12th floor. You'll show the fee waiver and they waive the fees to file. You will then be assigned a court date and case number.
- You then go immediately to the publishing office on the 8th floor and give them your fee waiver and forms for the Publication of Court Date For Name Change and they'll run it for the 3 weeks needed. You will receive a notice when it starts and a proof of publication when it's run. You'll need this for court.
- After all this, you wait the 6-8 weeks and go to the assigned court room at the day and time you're given. Necessary items:
 - Birth certificate
 - Photo ID
 - A copy of the forms you filed (they'll stamp those too)
 - Papers relevant to your criminal background if needed (I don't have a background so I can't help)
- Assuming your name is approved, you'll then go back to the 12th floor where they'll stamp your copies of your Order of Name Change.
 - Make sure you take your waiver so that you can avoid paying for it. I personally have used only 1 copy to change my info in my bank, my driver's license, etc.

State of Ohio

State of Indiana

Gender Marker Change

- <https://www.hrc.org/state-maps/gender-marker-change>
- 1. MI allows a 'sex designation change' by filling out the form at https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/sos/34lawens/MDOS_Sex_designation_form.pdf?rev=0aeb2a2653e74ff8858d7a0e59195751
 - a. No longer required to bring a passport, birth certificate, or court order documentation to change gender marker as of November 2019
 - b. Correction fee for MI driver's license = \$9, correction fee for MI state ID = \$10
 - c. This is **not** a name change form

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