



The following is a resource compiled by a NJ family who aided their child through their child's transition. This resource is the product of one family's journey, and is current for New Jersey, as they experienced it, as of end of 2016. We do not guarantee the timelines of the legal process herein, as it is not a substitute for legal advice. Should you have difficulties or wish to update a part of this document, please contact us at info@makeitbetter4youth.org

LEGAL NAME CHANGE

The links below will take you to the appropriate packet with all the information you'll need to represent yourself in the NJ court system to get a name change. Things you should know:

- The entire process from submitting the first form to your court hearing date will take at least 2 months.
- In 2016 the cost was approximately \$550. Here's how it breaks down:
 - \$250 Court filing fee
 - \$25 Newspaper publishing fee per notice (two required)
 - \$35 Affidavit Fee per notice (two required)
 - \$25 per Certified Copies of Final Judgement (2 required, but I recommend getting another)
 - \$25 mailing costs
 - \$50 for Department of Treasury to change name
 - \$27.00 for corrected name on birth certificate
- Keep copies of EVERYTHING you send to the court house and consider sending certified mail so you have a receipt that it was received.
- Follow the steps very carefully.

Change Name for Minor (requires one parent's signature)

http://www.njcourts.gov/forms/10552_namechg_minor.pdf

Change Name for Adult

http://www.njcourts.gov/forms/10551_namechg_adult.pdf

GENDER MARKER CHANGE

Birth Certificate:

In order to get your gender changed on your birth certificate you must have proof that you've undergone some form of gender confirming surgery. Here's what's required.

1. A letter requesting the changes to be made
2. A copy of your birth certificate (with the new name, but wrong gender)
3. A notarized letter from your surgeon regarding your sexual reassignment surgery.

Passport:



You can change the name and gender on your passport in a single step but it also requires the notarized letter from a surgeon. Here's what's required.

1. Go to the government website to figure out which passport form to submit <https://www.usa.gov/passport>. It depends whether you already have a passport and if you're a minor or not. Fill out the appropriate form.
2. New photo
3. Old Passport
4. New original Birth Certificate with right name but wrong gender
5. Notarized letter from surgeon
6. Filing fee

In about 6 weeks you will get all your original documents back along with a passport that has your correct name, correct gender, and your photo! Yay!! This is a big day because it was our first piece of ID that had everything right.

DMV:

To do the name and gender change you need the following:

1. Final Judgement
2. New birth certificate (with the wrong gender but right name)
3. Remaining 6 points of ID that all have to have the right name (so for example, bank statement, utility bill, etc.)
4. A special form from the DMV called "Declaration of Gender Designation Change for NJ MVC of ID card". This must be completed by a medical or social service provider attesting to your preferred gender. **YOU MUST HAVE THIS FORM.** They will not accept the notarized letter from your surgeon.
5. License fee.

And you get to walk out with a form of ID that has your correct name, picture and gender. This is a satisfying day. It only took us 4 trips to the DMV to get it done.

Social Security Card:

Although the SSA does not print your gender on your card they do keep track. To change your Social Security gender marker you need to go to the office and present your Social Security Card and any one of the following documents:

1. Passport showing correct gender
2. Amended birth certificate showing the new gender
3. A letter from a physician certifying appropriate clinical treatment for gender transition

Overall Steps (as we did them)

1. Follow process to get name legally changed with the state. This takes at least 2 months and costs approximately \$550.00. This will result in a piece of paper from the court called the Final Judgement (with a raised seal) which is necessary for each of the next steps), and a birth certificate with the correct name, but incorrect gender marker.
2. Take the Final Judgement, old Social Security card, and ID (with old name) to the nearest Social Security office and get your name changed with the Social Security. It takes 2 weeks to receive your new card.
3. Get letter from surgeon certifying your new gender.
4. Apply for new passport with all the required documents.
5. Get NJ DMV form completed by physician.
6. Change name on all accounts (bank accounts, credit cards, cell phone, etc.). Each will have their own requirements but you now have enough ID with the proper info you can get things changed.
7. Go to the DMV with EVERYTHING and get a new license/ State ID.
8. Somewhere along this timeline you need to update school records, employers, SAT, *FAFSA, colleges.

*For Female to Male transgender students you will need to lie on the form and mark yourself as female. If you fill in male you will be required to submit your Selective Service number, which you won't have because born female you weren't issued one.