

## LGBTQ Legal Gender Marker Change

\*If you desire any help or encounter any roadblocks, and need legal representation, contact the free and knowledgeable staff at the Whitman Walker Legal Center [here](#). If you have trouble getting a response, you may contact Arli Christian at [ACChristian@whitman-walker.org](mailto:ACChristian@whitman-walker.org).

### **Birth Certificate**

If you were born in Maryland:

1. You will need to obtain a court order for a gender marker change:
  - a. Obtain a notarized and signed letter from a doctor stating that you have had gender reassignment surgery.
  - b. Obtain a signed letter from the doctor monitoring your hormone replacement therapy, stating that you are undergoing a successful medical transition
  - c. Complete a petition, and an affidavit, for a court name change order. (If you are representing yourself and are unclear as to how to construct these documents, you may consult with the Whitman Walker legal staff for free and use their templates. See contact info below.)
  - d. Bring these documents, and a copy of your name change order, if applicable, to the county circuit court of your permanent residence address (the address you list with the school, payroll, taxes, etc.). You will need to pay a civil circuit court case fee, usually between \$70 and \$170. If you have already filed a petition for a name change order, this fee will be the same.
  - e. You will most likely receive a court date, and will need to appear and defend your petition before a judge.
  - f. You may be asked to publish your gender marker change in a newspaper. (Some counties new to this process base their procedure on that for name change.) You do NOT need to publish your gender marker change, and may file a petition to waive publication.
  - g. After you have submitted the appropriate documents and attended a court date (if applicable), you should receive a signed and sealed copy of a gender marker change order.
2. Take the court order to the local or county Health Department associated with your permanent residence address. Bring your current birth certificate and a valid, photo, government-issued ID with you, if you have one. (If this does not have your preferred gender marker on it, be prepared to explain that you will be changing it soon, or why you cannot yet change it.) They should be able to

amend your birth certificate and provide you with a new copy for a fee of around \$35.

3. If they are not able to process your request, you may take your court order to the Department of Vital Records at:

6550 Reisterstown Road  
Baltimore, Maryland, 21215

If you were not born in Maryland:

You will most likely need to follow the procedures for gender marker change in your place of birth (in the USA, these procedures are established at the state level).

**Driver's License**

1. You will need to obtain a letter from a mental health professional, stating that: a) you identify as your gender, b) how long you have been seeing them for Gender Dysphoria, c) how long you have identified as the gender with which you currently identify, d) how long you have presented (both privately, with friends and family, and publicly or "full-time") as the gender with which you currently identify.
2. You will also need to obtain a letter from a medical professional, stating a) the amount of time you've been undergoing hormone replacement therapy, and, b) the professional's analysis of your treatment as heading in a positive and successful direction
3. You will need to write a letter explaining your desire to change your gender marker on your driver's license.
4. Send these three documents to the MVA medical advisory board, at:  
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration  
6601 Ritchie Highway, NE  
Glen Burnie, MD 21062  
ATTN Medical Advisory Board
5. The Medical Advisory Board will mail you a decision.
6. Take their letter approving your gender marker change to an MVA office (the closest to the college is at:  
27351 Point Lookout Road (Route 5 at Sunnyside Road)  
Leonardtown, MD 20650  
(410) 768-7000
7. They will issue you a new driver's license with your requested gender marker, and you will have to pay the \$20 fee for a new driver's license.

## **Passport**

1. You will need to obtain a letter from a medical professional who is familiar with you and your transition. This physician will need to fill out and sign the following form letter:

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I, (physician's full name), (physician's medical license or certificate number), (issuing U.S. State/Foreign Country of medical license/certificate), (DEA Registration number or comparable foreign designation), am the physician of (name of patient), with whom I have a doctor/patient relationship and whom I have treated (or with whom I have a doctor/patient relationship and whose medical history I have reviewed and evaluated). (Name of patient) has had appropriate clinical treatment for gender transition to the new gender (specify new gender male or female).

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the forgoing is true and correct.

Signature

Typed Name

Date

“

2. Send this document along with your passport application. “Clinical treatment” is used as an open term, so that people who either don't want to or don't have access to certain medical, transition-related processes may have the correct gender marker on their passport.
3. For more info on this process, see the National Center for Transgender Equality's guide to changing gender markers on passports [here](#).

## **Social Security Administration**

1. Bring a copy of your birth certificate, with the gender marker that you want on your SSA records, to the nearest Social Security Administration office.