

# LEGAL NAME / GENDER MARKER CHANGE IN CALIFORNIA

Changing your name  
and/or gender marker can  
be a daunting task and we  
are here to help!

The first step is to get a  
legal court document that  
states what your name  
used to be and your new  
name.

Scroll down for detailed

# LEGAL FILING

You must **fill out legal paperwork**. A judge must sign off on it.

Legal Services of Northern California (LSNC) provides **free support** for this crucial step.

[CLICK HERE TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH LSNC.](#)

# 1. OBTAIN A COURT ORDER

1. Go to the nearest court and **file this paperwork.**
2. Depending on the type of change you are making, you will have a **waiting period** of either 29 days or 6 weeks.
3. A judge will then sign off on the changes to make it official.
4. You will either receive your **court order** in the mail or you can **pick it up from the courthouse.**
5. You will want **2-3 official copies** of this court order.

## 2. SOCIAL SECURITY CARD

If you have a social security number, this must be your next step. Generally, the rest of your other documents cannot be changed without correcting this.

You can [make an appointment here](#).

Bring the following documents to your appointment:

- **Proof of Identity** (driver's license, passport, health insurance/health records, Certificate of Naturalization or U.S. Citizenship)
- **Legal Court Order** -- you must bring a certified document, not a photocopy.
- **Filled out SS-5 (Application for Social Security Card)**
- *IF YOU DON'T HAVE CITIZENSHIP:*  
**Proof of immigration status**  
(Permanent Resident Card I-551, Arrival/Departure Record I-94, along with unexpired foreign passport, Admission stamp in an unexpired foreign passport, work permit I-766)

# DRIVER'S LICENSE/STATE ID

Apply online [here](#) then make an appointment at the DMV.

Bring the following to your appointment:

- **One** proof of **identity**
- **Two** proofs of residency
- **Social security card**
- Legal name change **court order\***

\*For gender marker change on an ID, you do NOT need the court document. It does not have to be legal to change it on your ID.

[WHAT COUNTS AS PROOF? CLICK HERE.](#)

# US PASSPORT

If you have an unexpired, undamaged US passport, mail the following documents using USPS:

- Filled out application
  - Form DS-5504 (if name change/passport is **less** than a year old)
  - OR**
  - Form DS-82 (if name change/passport is **more** than a year old)
- Most recent U.S. passport
- Legal name change order
- One color passport photo
- Fees if applicable

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO + DIFFERENT SCENARIOS IF THIS DOESN'T APPLY TO YOU.](#)

[CLICK HERE TO CHANGE YOUR PASSPORT GENDER MARKER](#)

# BIRTH CERTIFICATE

- VS-23
- Legal name change court order
- Payment (check only)
- Notarized statement

Bring the above documents and your DL/ID to any Fed-Ex, UPS, or Post Office to be notarized. The notary will need a thumb-print and a signature.

**CHANGING ONLY YOUR NAME  
ADDS AN ADDITIONAL BIRTH  
CERTIFICATE; CHANGING  
NAME AND GENDER MARKER  
REPLACES THE OLD ONE.**