



Gender Marker Changes

Many transgender and gender non-conforming people choose to change the gender marker on various forms of identification. Some reasons for doing so include having a gender marker that matches how the person identifies and/or physically presents or in order to access restrooms or other gendered facilities in spaces that require that birth certificate sex match the sex designation of the facility. Note that medical transition is not a prerequisite for changing gender marker on all forms of ID.

Pennsylvania Driver's License

1. For a gender change on a state identification card or driver's license, the individual will need to fill out the "Request for Gender Change on Identification Card/Driver's License" application at http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/pdotforms/dl_forms/DL-32.pdf.
2. The form will then need to be taken to their primary care doctor, therapist, or social worker to be completed.
3. The individual will then take the form to PennDOT and pay the current required fee of \$27.50 by *check or money order*. The gender marker change will be made at that time. The location of a PennDOT office near the individual can be found at: <https://www.dot4.state.pa.us/locator/locator.jsp#top?20150605135943103=20150605135943103>.

Social Security Card


In order to change the gender information on a social security card, the individual must present either other forms of identification reflecting the new gender marker or verification from the court or a medical provider confirming the individual's new gender identity. There are four documents that can be used as proof in order to change the gender marker on a social security record.

- A U.S. passport showing the correct gender
- A birth certificate showing the correct gender
- A court order recognizing the correct gender
- A signed letter from a provider confirming that the individuals has had appropriate clinical treatment for gender transition

The form to change a Social Security record can be found at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/forms/ss-5.pdf>. For additional information, resources, and a sample letter from providers, refer to http://transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/kyr/SSAResource_June2013.pdf.

Pennsylvania Birth Certificate

To change the sex on a birth certificate, the individual will need to provide proof that they have received gender affirmation surgery. This typically refers to surgery that alters the genitals. Unfortunately, if the individuals has not had such surgery, they cannot change their birth certificate sex at this time. A letter from the physician who treated the person for gender affirmation surgery will be needed to provide proof of such surgery. The individual must have already completed the gender affirmation surgery in



order to change the sex on their birth certificate. They will need to mail the letter, the old birth certificate, the court order providing proof of the gender change, their birth date and birth county, and payment of the \$20.00 fee** to Vital Records, Corrections Unit, 101 S. Mercer St., New Castle, PA 16101. If they were not born in Pennsylvania, refer to the Garden of Peace Project's directions at <http://www.gardenofpeaceproject.org/birth-certificate-passport-social-security.html> for their birth state's procedures. The PA office can be reached via phone at (724) 656-3331 or fax at (724) 656-3153. The new birth certificate will reflect the amendment and will not show evidence that any changes were made.

**Military Veterans may be exempted from paying this fee.

U.S. Passport

In order to change a passport gender marker, the individual must present other forms of identification reflecting the new gender marker or a letter from a doctor verifying "completion" of transition. Additional requirements depend on whether their transition is "complete" or "in process" (as defined by the U.S. Department of State). Refer to <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/passports/information/gender.html#complete> for detailed instructions and additional information.

If their last passport was issued within the past year, there is no fee to change the gender marker, but if the issue date is more than a year ago, the fee is \$140.00. If their transition is "complete," they can apply for a full ten-year passport; if their transition is "in process," they can only apply for a two-year passport. However, there will be no fee to apply for a ten-year passport at the end of those two years.

FAQs

Q: If an individual is transgender and changes their gender on their health insurance card, will they still be able to be covered for certain medical needs for their sex assigned at birth?

A: The individual should contact their insurance company for the most up-to-date coverage information. Every health insurance company is different.

Q: Does an individual need to be on hormone replacement therapy in order to change their gender marker on their social security? Identification card?

A: No, No.



Sources/Resources

Garden Of Peace Project: <http://www.gardenofpeaceproject.org/transguide.html>

Mazzoni Center: <https://mazzonicenter.org/legal-services>

National Center for Transgender Equality: <http://transequality.org/know-your-rights>

