

HOW TO: NJ NAME CHANGE PROCESS (MINORS)

Note: Please see our [document assistance page](#) for the most up to date information on name and gender change policy. As of 7/8/2025, the Presidential Administration is only targeting gender marker changes on documents. Please see the above link for more information.



- We already **know** that Gender Affirming Name Changes are one of the primary ways we can ensure Gender Diverse youth survive and thrive, but they can't do it alone. Most Gender Diverse minors are going to need the support of their parent or guardian.
- We know you want to help. This can be an overwhelming process for some, so we wanted to break down the steps for you!

Notes, Key Words, and How-To's:

- This guide is for minors and their parents.
- **"Pro se"** – This is what it's called if you're representing yourself.
- For all of these documents, you will be the plaintiff.
- Each county in NJ has a judiciary ombudsman or self-help office. They can't provide legal counsel, but they can answer general questions about the courts. Listed **here**.
- [How to use JEDS](#).

You can do this!

Step 1: A Court order to change your legal name

This packet is the guide for minors (and their adult parent or guardian if seeking a simultaneous name change).

Adults seeking a name change for any other reason **should not** use this packet.)

- Forms **F, Fl, G, H, Hl, and J** are for **minors**.
- Forms **A, Al, B, C, Cl, and D** are for **adults**.
- You must fill out **the first 5 documents to proceed**.

Step 2: Pay the Administrative Fee

This is the fee to cover the cost of filing your papers with the courts. Make a check or money order payable to "Treasurer, State of New Jersey" for **\$250**.

If you are changing the name of multiple family members, the fee covers all of them.

- 1) you can pay online at www.njcourts.gov/self-help/jeds
- 2) If you can show financial hardship, you may not need to pay the fee. See note below

Step 3: Send Your Documents

You will need to send the first 5 documents to the Superior Court either online or by mail. Forms **J** and **D** are for later.

For mail, **most** of these steps require the documents be sent via **USPS**, with **return receipt requested**, and by **certified mail**. Online documents can be sent through the NJ Courts' online system, [JEDS](#).

Submitting documents by mail:

- Sign all forms and make 2 additional copies of each. Always keep copies for personal records!
- In your envelope, make sure to include:

- ☐ 2 sets of documents (the originals and one set of copies)
- ☐ A check or money order for \$250.00 or a Fee Waiver Request form
- ☐ A stamped envelope addressed to yourself so the court can return your documents.

Once you have everything together, mail your packet to the Superior Court in your county. If you can, use certified mail so you can request a return receipt for proof of delivery.

NOTE:

If you and/or your child have criminal or delinquent pending charges, you must send additional copies **by regular and certified mail** to the prosecutor of the county where the matter is being held, **at least 20 days before the hearing**.

Step 4: Review Returned Copies & Send More Mail

If sent by mail, you will receive a copy of the forms you submitted. These documents will now have a **docket number** written on them. This number is important as it **identifies your case** and you will need to use it on **all future papers** you send to the court about your case.

The Order Fixing Date of Hearing form will have the date you need to appear in court for your case, usually 1-3 months out.

At least 20 days before your hearing:

You **must** send a copy of the **Order Fixing Date of Hearing** by regular mail, certified mail, return receipt requested to:
The Director of the Division of Criminal Justice in Trenton, NJ.



When your receipts are returned, send the **Proof of Mailing** – Form **J** (and **D** if applicable) with certified mail receipts attached from each office that received the packet to the County Courthouse.

You’re almost there!

Next: Notify minor’s other parent

If the minor’s other parent does not reside with you, you must send forms **F** and **G** to them at their last known address.

They must be sent **certified mail, return receipt requested**, and through **USPS**.

Step 5: Go to the Courthouse



Head to the courtroom and see the judge on the day and time listed on the Order Fixing Date of Hearing form.

Note: Bring proof of your birth name for identification purposes.

Here's what you can expect at your hearing:

- The judge may ask you questions about your name change.
- If the judge asks why you want to change your name, you can say this is your preferred name as stated in your application, or you can provide more details if you feel comfortable.
- If the judge asks about your transition, you can answer if you are comfortable or you can respectfully say that is private medical information. You **DO NOT** need to provide any personal medical information or documentation for a name change.
- At the end of the hearing, the judge should sign the Final Judgment form and provide you a copy.



Step 6: Get Certified Copies of the Final Judgment

To legally change your name on your state and federal IDs, you need to order certified copies of your Final Judgment and send them to different agencies. **You cannot use photocopies.**

- To get a certified copy of the Final Judgment form, complete NJ Courts' [Records Request Form](#).
- As of 2024, electronic copies will not suffice for Social Security or the MVC.



You can submit your completed form through the [NJ Courts' online system](#), email it to SCCOMailbox@judiciary.state.nj.us,
OR
mail it to the following address:
Superior Court Clerk's Office
P.O. Box 971
Trenton, NJ 08625-0971
Order at least 3 certified copies.
The fee for each copy is \$25.

NOTE: Your certified copies HAS to have an NJ official raised **gold seal!**



Step 7: Notifying Agencies

You **must** send a certified copy with raised seal of the Final Judgment **and** Final Judgment Addendum to the Dept of Treasury **and** the Registrar of the Office of Vital Statistics **within 45 days** after **the date of the judgment**.

There is a \$50 fee for filing with the Treasury. You will have to inquire with the Registrar about their current fees. When you file with the Registrar you can request corrected copies of birth certificates, marriage licenses, civil union certificates, and domestic partnership records!

NOTE:
The Date of the Judgment is the date the Final Judgment was signed.
The Effective Date is the date you can begin using your new legal name on official documents.
Both will be listed on the Final Judgment.

QUICK PAUSE!

By this point, you should have your court order!

CONGRATULATIONS!
You did it!

But you're not done yet. There are a few remaining steps...

Step 8: Almost There!

Within **two weeks** of the **Effective Date** listed on your Final Judgment or Final Judgment Addendum, you **must** present these documents to the MVC for a corrected driver's license. You don't need 6 Points of ID for this! You just need the court orders, your old license. and proof of address. Some MVC offices prefer you update with the Social Security Administration first, you can inquire with them. (And see the next step for SSA!)

When you go to the MVC, you can also request a correction of gender designation on your license with [this form](#). **If you've already updated your Social, now is also a great time to update to a Real ID!**



Step 9: Finishing Up!

For a Social Security Card, use [this form](#). Local offices can be found [here](#). You only need the form, your **IDs with your original name** (if you are doing this step before the MVC), and the Final Judgment and Final Judgment Addendum! You can contact them at [+1 800-772-1213](tel:+18007721213) with any questions!

Phew! Now that you have an updated License, Social Security Card, and court orders, don't forget to update: (not an exhaustive list)

- Your [passport](#)
- Your records with your employer
- Your records with the 3 major Credit Bureaus (Experian, TransUnion, Equifax)

Name Change Checklist

The Name change Process can be overwhelming for some, please utilize this checklist to keep track of your progress!

- ☐ Fill Out Court Documents
- ☐ Pay the Administrative Fee
- ☐ Send Your Documents To The Court.
- ☐ Review Returned Copies.
- ☐ Send Copies of Documents to Treasurer and Registrar. (with applicable fees)
- ☐ Go To The Courthouse.
- ☐ Get Certified Copies of the Final Judgment
- ☐ Inform the State, and update Your State and Federal IDs.
- ☐ Update your personal information (creditors, employers, doctor's offices, etc.)

A Comment from the State of NJ's Transgender Information Hub:

The State of New Jersey is committed to providing accurate and up-to-date public information.

It has come to our attention that some federal webpages have been taken down and, as a result, links to federal webpages on the this website may be broken and unavailable. As a result, access to important guidelines, data, and resources may be impacted. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. We are working to restore vital information when possible at the State level. We are working on updates to this webpage, please visit us again soon.

Changing your name can be an overwhelming process.

You can do this. You are not alone.

**We aren't going anywhere, and we got this,
because we got us.**



**GARDEN STATE
EQUALITY**

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