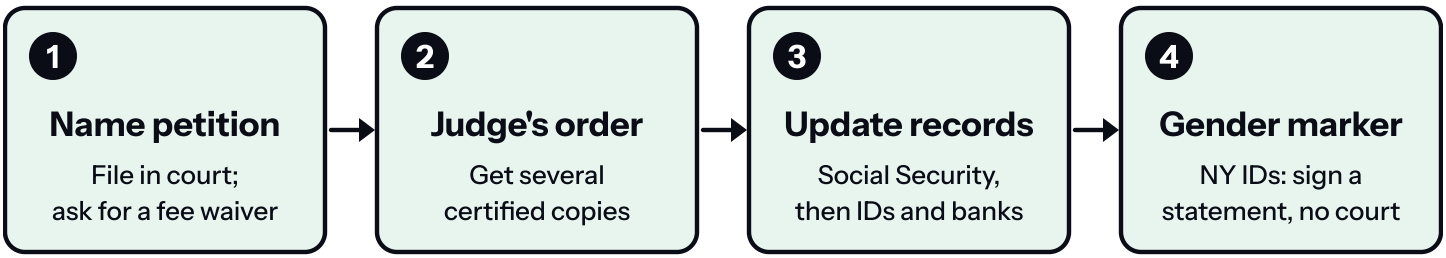
Name and Gender Marker Changes

How to change your name and gender marker in New York, and which federal rules apply now.



Name

In New York you file a petition in court: $65 in NYC Civil Court or $210 in Supreme Court. If you cannot pay, ask for a fee waiver. Ask the judge to skip the newspaper notice and seal the record if publishing your name would put you at risk. Get several certified copies of the order.

Then update

Update Social Security first. Then update your driver license or ID, your IDNYC, your birth certificate, your bank and your work.

Gender marker

For New York documents, you sign a statement about your gender. You do not need a court order or a doctor's note, and X is available.

Federal documents

Passports now show the sex listed at birth, and X is not available. Social Security changes your name but not your sex marker. Asking for a passport name change may reset your marker, so ask a legal group before you apply. These rules are in court and can change.

Free legal help

The Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund (tldef.org) runs a Name Change Project. Lambda Legal (lambdalegal.org) explains federal ID rules. Immigrants should talk to an immigration lawyer first.

Stay safe

Keep your certified copies and court papers in a safe place. Sealing the record helps protect your old name.

Sources: NY Courts name change forms (nycourts.gov); U.S. State Department (travel.state.gov); Lambda Legal; TLDEF. General information, not legal advice. Last checked November 2026. Is something unclear or out of date? Use the contact form on our website and choose Guide feedback.