

Common answers about

Name and Gender Marker Changes for Trans Youth



Are you a trans youth
interested in changing
your deadname or
gender marker?

**Here is what you
need to know!**



Some useful terms

Deadname means someone's name they were given when they were born but no longer use because it does not match their gender identity.

Gender confirming surgery is surgery that alters your body to match the gender you identify with.

Gender identity means the gender that you personally feel is who you are, not the gender you were labeled as when you were born. Some people are non-binary and this means that they do not identify as either male or female.

Gender marker means a sign on your government identification documents that tells people what your gender identity is. It is sometimes called gender identifier or sex designation. Can be "M" as in "male", "F" as in "female" or "X" which is gender neutral.

Every Canadian has the right to change their name and gender marker on their identification documents including their birth certificate, driver's license, photo card, health card, passport, SIN card and Indian Status card.





If you are trans you have the same rights as every Canadian citizen to change your gender identity and deadname on your identification documents.

I am a trans youth in Ontario and I want to legally change my deadname. What do I need to do?

You must apply for a document called a “name change certificate” but you must have been living in Ontario for 12 months before you apply. You can then use your name change certificate to change your name on other documents like your ID card.

I am a trans youth and would like to change my name but I am a permanent resident of Canada. Can I do so?

Yes, if you are a permanent resident you can change your name on documents including your permanent resident card, health card and SIN card.

I am trans but I am not a permanent resident or citizen. Can I change my name on my documents?

If you are not a citizen or a permanent resident your birth certificate, passport and ID cards will be from your home country and will need to be changed through their system for doing so. You can apply to change your name on Canadian issued documents including your study or work permits, visas and refugee claim documents.

**As a trans person after I change my name
will I receive a new birth certificate?**

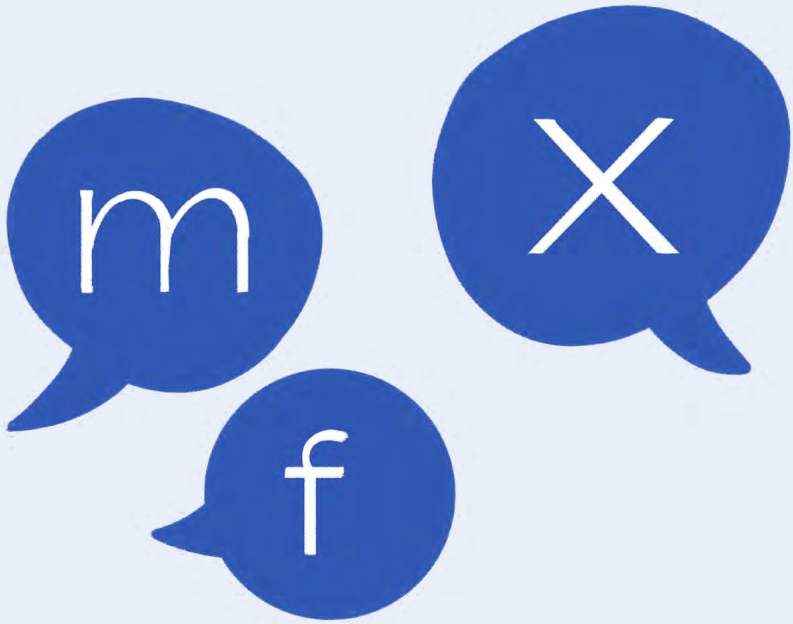
If you were born in Ontario, after your name change you will receive a new birth certificate with your new name.

If you were not born in Ontario and would like your new name on your birth certificate you will need to apply for a new birth certificate through the country or province you were born in. It is best to check with the country or province you were born in to learn about their requirements.

**I want to legally be referred to the name
I chose, how old do I have to be to change
my deadname myself?**

If you are older than 16 you can apply for your name change yourself, if you are under 16 then a parent will have to apply for you.





What you should know about changing Gender Markers

Is there a way for me to show my new gender on my identification documents?

Your identification documents have a gender marker on them. This is a sign on your identification documents that tells people what your gender identity is. A gender marker is sometimes called a gender identifier or sex designation. In Ontario it can be “M” as in “male”, “F” as in “female” or “X” which is gender neutral. You can choose which gender marker you would like to have on your documents.

What are some documents that can be changed to show my new gender?

Your gender marker can be changed on documents including your birth certificate, driver's license, passport, permanent resident card, citizenship certificate and Indian status card. If you are not a citizen or a permanent resident you can apply to change your gender marker on documents including your study or work permits, visas and refugee claim documents.

How old do I have to be to change my gender marker?

If you are 16 or older you can apply to change your gender marker yourself, if you are under 16 your parent will apply for you.



What if I can't change my gender marker because I am under 16 and my parents will not give their consent?

If you are under 16 and cannot get your parents to consent to changing your gender marker you may be able to apply to court to ask them to change your gender marker without your parents' consent. It is best to check the legal resources at the end of this document for help with your situation.

Can I have no gender marker?

You can have your gender marker hidden on your birth certificate and your Ontario Health Card does not have gender markers. Your passport, ID, permanent resident card and driver's license still need a gender marker of "M", "F" or "X".

Do I need to have gender confirming surgery or be taking hormones to change my name or my gender marker?

No! You do not need gender confirming surgery or take hormones to change your gender marker on any of the documents that are talked about in this guide.




Do I have to change all of my documents at once?

No! But it is much easier to change your gender marker and name on other documents (like your driver's license) when your birth certificate (or if you are a not a citizen your permanent resident card) has been updated with your new name and gender marker and when you have a name change certificate. It may be helpful to then change your ID cards and your driver's license as they are required along with your birth certificate to change your SIN card and your passport.


For more information check out these resources

METRAC – Transformed Project

A website providing health and social services resources for two-spirit, non-binary and trans survivors of intimate partner violence


 www.metrac.org/what-we-do/transformed-project/

For a helpful guide on changing your name and gender marker you can visit:

 www.metrac.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Changing-ID-Legal-Resource-D5-Nov-24.pdf

Transgender Map

A full guide on the social, legal and medical aspects of gender transition for transgender individuals, questioning individuals or their supporters

 www.transgendermap.com/resources/canada/ontario/

Justice Trans

A website which provides two-spirit, trans, non-binary and Gender Non-Conforming individuals with legal information

 <https://justicetrans.org/en/>



Here are some places you can find support

LGBT Youth Line offers confidential
and non-judgemental peer support

🌐 www.youthline.ca

☎ (647) 694-4275

Lesbian Gay Bi Trans (LGBT) Youth Line has
an Ontario-wide database of mental health
service providers and other supports

🌐 [www.youthline.ca/get-support/
referral-database](http://www.youthline.ca/get-support/referral-database)

The 519 offers support and services for
LGBTQ2S individuals


🌐 www.the519.org

☎ (416) 392-6874

✉ Info@The519.org


Positive Space Network provides programming and mental health support for 2SLGBTQ+ youth in the Halton Region

 positivespacenetwork.ca/resources/


 (289) 208-0886 or (289) 208-0902

Sherbourne Health Centre offers primary healthcare programs and services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, two-spirited, intersex, queer or questioning individuals


 info@sherbourne.on.ca

 (416) 324-4180

Gerstein Crisis Centre has services including 24/7 telephone support (in over 180 languages), in-person mobile crisis team, community support referrals, substance use crisis management

 (416) 929-5200

Rainbow Health Ontario is a database of health and social service providers who have expressed a commitment to providing care to LGBT2SQ people in Ontario

 www.rainbowhealthontario.ca/lgbt2sq-health/service-provider-directory/

Here are some places you can find legal help

Justice for Children and Youth provides legal advice and representation to youth under 18

🌐 <https://jfcy.org/en/>

☎ (416) 920-1633

☎ **Toll Free in Ontario: 1-866-999-JFCY (5329)**

The 519 Legal Clinic offers free general summary advice on legal issues

🌐 www.the519.org

☎ (416) 392-6874

✉ LegalClinic@The519.org



You deserve safety and support!



This is general information only. If you need legal advice, you should contact a lawyer.