


How I changed my name in California

I 1st set an appointment with my psychiatrist to fill out DMV form DL328. I got the form through [this helpful yahoo group](#) which has form DL328 available for download. I filled this form out like below:

 CONFIDENTIAL MEDICAL INFORMATION AUTHORIZATION (Name and Gender Change)	
<small>TO HOSPITAL OR MEDICAL FACILITY:</small> ADDRESS _____ _____ _____	<small>DATED (VALID FOR THREE YEARS FROM THIS DATE):</small> date filled out: _____ <small>DRIVER LICENSE NO:</small> your license number: _____ <small>CASE NO (MEDICAL):</small> _____ <small>SOCIAL SECURITY NO:</small> your social security number: _____ <small>PHONE NUMBER(S) IF AVAILABLE:</small> your phone numbers: _____
<small>TO PHYSICIAN:</small> ADDRESS _____ your physician's address: _____ my doctor put her stamp here: _____	<small>Patient (Preferred Name):</small> your desired name: _____ <small>Physician:</small> your physician's name: _____ <small>Hospital:</small> _____
<small>PERSON'S PRESENT GENDER AND DATE OF BIRTH (IS GAIN OR DIVORCE DECREE OR A COURT ORDER):</small> your old name that is on your license right now: _____	
<small>TO BE COMPLETED BY MEDICAL DOCTOR OR HOSPITAL</small>	My professional opinion is that the person's: <small>Gender Identification is</small> <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female (On this date _____) <small>Appearance is</small> <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female (On this date _____) <small>Gender Identification checked above is:</small> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transitional (Please comment.) <small>Comments:</small> have doctor put what you've done in transition so far: _____ _____ _____
ADVISORY STATEMENT Medical information is required under the authority of Divisions 6 and 7 of the California Vehicle Code. Failure to provide the information is cause for refusal to issue a license, or to cancel or withdraw the driving privilege. All records of the department relating to the physical or mental condition of any person are confidential and not open to public inspection (Section 1808.5, California Vehicle Code).	
AGREEMENT I hereby authorize my physician or hospital to answer the above questions and submit information to the Department of Motor Vehicles, or its employees, relating to my gender identification for the purpose of obtaining a driver license or identification card under my preferred gender. I understand that information received by the department will be held in the strictest confidence per Vehicle Code 1808.5 unless I authorize an attorney to gain access to my file. Any expense involved is to be charged to me and not to the Department of Motor Vehicles.	
ATTN: Physician or Hospital —Please return this form to the subject for inclusion with the driver license or identification card application.	
Signed: your signature in new name: _____	I had dmV clerk witness for me: _____ <small>witness</small>
A completed examination form for this person is on file in my office at: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <small>Address:</small> physician fills and signs: <hr/> <small>DATE OF EXAMINATION</small> <hr/> <small>NAME OF EXAMINING PHYSICIAN/MEDICAL LIC. NO.</small> <hr/> <small>SIGNATURE OF PHYSICIAN</small> <hr/> </div>	DMV Examiner's Signature _____ <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin-top: 10px;"> D.M.V. </div>
<small>D. 108 (REV. 5/96)</small>	

I didn't actually need to have my psychiatrist fill out that form: any medical doctor would do. I was told that a therapist with even a PhD would not have qualified.

I also needed to have form DL44 filled out. The DMV said that only an original form would do: not a copy. I called the DMV and had them mail me two of the forms. I filled it out as common sense would dictate as it was pretty straight forward.

I had previously set an [appointment](#) with the DMV and I went in with both forms. The lady who helped me had to look up some regulations, but otherwise it went very smoothly. I have heard of others who say they've had problems at this step. If the clerk asked me for my court ordered name change I would have answered that *this* is my name change: that the California constitution allows for immediate spontaneous name change. Had I continued to have a problems, I would have asked for a supervisor.

Note: as of April 15th 2001 Sally Walker at the DMV (916) 657-4484 is supposed to be available for help regarding TS name change issues.

But I didn't have a problem.

I got my temporary license and headed straight over to the Social Security office. This was needed immediately as the DMV checks SS#s on the name change form against the Social Security records.

The security guard asked to see my name change, but I told him California law doesn't require a court order, and that the process I was doing that day was my name change. He let me in and I filled out the SS form there to change my records as I waited. Again, this was common sense, and I just asked the guard which form to use.

The clerk said they couldn't change the sex on my records without a letter from my Dr saying I had SRS. They did however, change my name after seeing my old ID and then my new temporary license.

My next step was to change my bank records. I did this by waiting for my new driver license with my picture, and I took that into my bank, and after a few minutes of the clerk checking her procedures, I had it changed.

For all my credit cards I sent them a printed scan of my old driver license and SS card as well as a printed scan of my new driver license and SS card. That, plus a letter that I made and filled out I sent them. Here is a sample letter I sent:

From:

New Full Name

Account Number: _____

1234 Any St.

Anywhere, CA 90000

234-567-8910

To:

Re: Name/Gender Change:

From: Old Full Name / Male

To: New Full Name / Female

Hi!

Please change my name on your records from: Old Full Name to: New Full Name for account number: _____. Also, if you have a gender flag, please change that to female. New Full Name has been my name since September 18th 2001.

Please see a large scan of my new and old Driver License and Social Security Card.

Lastly, please notify me when you have made the change.

Thank You!

Sincerely,

New Name

Date: ____/____/2004

Old signature:

Old Full Name

This worked for all my credit cards.

Next up was when I wanted my passport. I had my Therapist write me a letter saying that I would be having SRS and traveling to Thailand, and that a passport with Female on it would help me out. I also included a copy of my old and new driver license and SS cards.

I then went to the State Dept [website](#) and followed the instructions [here](#) on how to apply for a passport. I brought two passport pictures, the printouts mentioned above, my therapist's letter, a certified copy of my birth certificate, and the filled out [application for a passport](#) to a [location](#) that processed the applications.

I got my passport with Female on it, but it only lasted one year. I was told it would be extended when I submitted a letter from my SRS surgeon saying SRS was preformed. When I got home, I send the State Dept that SRS letter, form [DS19](#) filled out, and I sent them a copy of this letter certified with a return receipt:



United States Department of State
Charleston Passport Center
1269 Holland St. Building 643
Charleston, SC 29405
1-900-225-5674

Your passport has been limited in validity until gender reassignment surgery as been completed.

When your surgery has been completed, please submit certified medical records along with your limited passport, a completed Form DSP-19 Passport Amendment/Validation Application, and this letter. Your passport will be extended to its full ten-year validity without further charge, unless requested on an expedited basis. The medical documentation will be returned with your extended passport.

PLEASE RETURN THIS LETTER WITH YOUR REQUEST.

ENCL: DSP-19

I did receive my amended passport with the extended expiration date along with my SRS letter within a few months.

The only main things now needed changed were my birth certificate and my college records. I have already been living with my new name for years, but I still needed to go to court to change my name yet again for my birth certificate and for my college records. I always knew I would have to do this, and I dreaded going to court. That's why I did my 1st name change steps how I did above since I would have to go to court yet again to change my birth certificate.

I basically followed [these instructions](#) which I found at Dr Becky's great [site](#). It said that I would need to order form VS24(S) [here](#). I then when to California's court info page [here](#) and downloaded the following forms:

[cm010.pdf](#)
[nc110.pdf](#)
[nc200.pdf](#)
[nc220.pdf](#)
[nc230.pdf](#)

Form nc200.pdf has important instructions on the 2nd page that I followed. I filled out all the above forms (but cm010.pdf was not used in Orange County so I tossed it when at the courthouse clerk's counter), and anywhere where it asked for name of petitioner I put my old name otherwise it was straight forward. I made sure I dated everywhere that needed to be dated and signed wherever it called for (old name – ugh).

I went to Orange County's Probate Court which for me was:

Lamoreaux Justice Center (LJC)
341 The City Drive
Orange, CA 92868-3209
(714) 935-7000

I asked a guard where I should apply to change my name and he told me. I waited in line and when I saw the clerk she went over my paperwork and said the hard part was over with. I picked a newspaper from a list she gave me and I added that to form nc220.pdf. I should have already done that from a list available [here](#) for OC. I'm sure that info is available at other county courthouse [websites](#).

I was given a date to appear, and I paid their fee. When I got home I called the newspaper I chose, gave them my credit card number and I faxed in form nc220.pdf.

When my time came, they called me by my last name only which was nice since that could have been embarrassing otherwise. They asked for a certified copy of my birth certificate which I showed them. They gave that back and said the change was approved! They asked me how many certified copies of the court order I'd want and I said seven which was expensive, but I thought I'd play it safe. I picked up those copies at the clerks office and walked out of there on a cloud.

Now to get vital statistics to change my birth certificate. I had already received form VS24(S) and followed the instructions that it came with as well as the [these instructions](#) referenced above. I basically looked at my current birth certificate and noted the box numbers that needed to be changed. Here is that form (though they need an original):

They also send out a form that needed to be notarized to get the new certified copy of my new birth certificate. They provide one new certified copy of my birth certificate and charge for any extra. I believe it cost me \$35 for the change and an extra copy. I sent out those forms certified mail with a return receipt, and got a postcard in the mail saying I had a 10 month wait. However, after less than half that time I got my new birth certificate!

The final things I did was take an extra SRS letter and court order over to the Social Security office and have my gender marker changed. They said all they really needed was my SRS letter and the court order was optional. About a month after I called them and asked for a confirmation of the change which they confirmed.

Lastly, I wrote the Admissions and Records office of my college and sent them a certified copy of my court order and a letter that I cannibalized and changed a bit from my letter to banks above. About a month after, I requested a copy of my transcripts and there was my new name with no mention of the old!

There are a few other things that I will need to do. The main thing is to deal with credit agencies and change that info, but that is for another day. Perhaps another year.

The above does not constitute legal advice, but is rather a simple narrative of how *I* changed *my* name in California.

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