Introduction

To change your name and gender in California, you need to ask a court to order the change. You won't need to appear at a hearing unless there's a problem. The court will automatically approve your name and gender change after a 6-week waiting period.

Forms

You can fill out your forms by hand with blue or black ink, or using a computer with a black font.

Forms can be filled out on your computer using your web browser (e.g. Firefox, Chrome, Edge), a PDF reader (e.g. Okular, Acrobat), or other software that can edit PDFs (e.g. LibreOffice Draw, Xournal++). I used LibreOffice Draw for my forms.

Cost

Ignoring incidental and variable costs such as parking at government facilities, the cost of my name change came out to $789.84. Here's the breakdown of all the costs:

Item	Cost
Court Filing Fee in Los Angeles	$435.00
Certified Court Copies	$121.50
VS-20 Form Notarization	$15.00
Postage Stamp for Amendment Request	$0.73
Birth Record Amendment	$26.00
DMV Driver’s License Update	$36.76
Passport Photos	$15.00
Priority Mail for Passport Application	$9.85
Passport Renewal	$130.00
Total	$789.84

Other resources

- California's self-help guide.
- The Transgender Law Center's ID Please Guide
- The National Center for Transgender Equality's ID Documents Center

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