

# **GENDER CHANGE and IDENTITY DOCUMENTS**

## Mississippi Name Change Guidelines

Procedures may vary by county.

If you have any questions, please consult a licensed attorney.

Mississippi law about name changes: Mississippi Code Annotated § 93-17-1 and §93-17-31.

### **What You Need:**

Name Change Petition (obtain from your county clerk's office)

Birth Certificate Application

Social Security Form

### **Steps:**

Fill out the name change petition and get it notarized.

File the petition at the county clerk's office in the county where you live and pay the fee.

The clerk will schedule your court date. Appear on that date and if your name change is granted, you will receive your court order for a name change. Upon being granted your name change, it must now be filed with the chancery court, and petition MUST have file number and seal on document.

**\*Additional documents may be required:** Driver's license or picture ID, birth certificate or current passport, copies of current bills showing current address.

**Don't Forget:** Once your name change has been approved, you will need to update this with several government agencies.

Mississippi Vital Records will issue an amended birth certificate upon receipt of a certified court order. An application for your birth certificate in your new

name must be filled out and accompany your certified court order plus any fee that remains to be paid.

The next step is to the Social Security Administration to obtain a Social Security Card in your new name. You will be asked to show legal proof of your new information via court order and birth certificate amendment. Upon approval, your new card will be in your possession between 7 and 14 business days.

You will need to change your name with Social Security Administration prior to changing it with the Department of Public Safety (DPS). Bring copies of your name change order, birth certificate amendment, social security administration receipt, and pay fee for a corrected license.

Finally, obtain your voter registration card by updating your information with your Secretary of State, or you can wait until your next voting opportunity and show your new identification.

### Gender Change Guidelines

Mississippi Vital Records will issue an amended birth certificate upon receipt of “a certified court order, a medical statement that attests to the reassignment, and the required fee.” Miss. Code Ann. §41-57-1.

Vital Records requires a court order for name change, a medical statement verifying to the reassignment (“irreversible changes to sex” is sufficient), and the required fee. Please note that even if a court order is for both name and gender marker change, a physician’s letter must be included as well.

Mississippi Vital Records

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