

## Benefits of Securing Your Legal Name Change!

- It lets you align your legal identification documents to your chosen name
- Let's you align financial accounts (bank, investments, credit cards) with your identity
- May Improve the support you will receive in your workplace
- Serves as a reminder to others (including police) of your true name/gender
- Smooths the way through airport security lines
- Reduces dysphoria and improves your personal outlook on life

Adults in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania can obtain a change of name based on the discretion of a judge from your county's Court of Common Pleas, who is assigned to hear your petition for a name change. The Eastern PA Trans Equity Project (EPTep) can help you achieve your dream of aligning your legal name to your identity.



While we do not offer legal advice, we can assist you with navigating the process. For select counties, this includes completing your legal paperwork (always verify with your local Clerk of Courts). We may even be able to assist you with a financial grant to help cover some of the costs associated with your legal name change and new government Identification documents!

## How Do I Legally Change My Name?

The Pennsylvania legal name change process for adults consists of six basic steps and most people can complete it without hiring an attorney. However, if you are unsure of your ability to complete the process you may wish to consult with a lawyer.

- **Step One: Fingerprinting & Background Check**
- **Step Two: Submit Your Petition to The Court**
- **Step Three: Publish Your Intent to Change Your Name**
  - **Step Four: Proof of Financial Status**
  - **Step Five: Attend Your Court Hearing**
- **Step Six: Receive Your Official Order of Name Change**

Publication Requirement: Pennsylvania law typically requires people seeking a legal name change to publish their intent to change their name in two local newspapers. For reasons of personal safety many transgender people prefer to avoid the publishing requirement. If this is your situation you will need to petition the Court and appear at a hearing to waive this requirement. EPTEP may be able to assist you with completing the paperwork for this motion.

After the judge confirms your legal name change you can begin the process of changing your name on your government IDs. This includes your Social Security Account, Driver's License, and Passport. You may also wish to change the name on your Birth Certificate although this is not a requirement. The EPTEP website can provide you with guidance on these processes.

\*Disclaimer: For adults only. The information in this document is meant to give general information to the public and is for educational purposes only. It is not meant to provide specific legal advice for your situation. It is your responsibility to comply with all statutes and regulations. If you have specific questions or concerns, please speak with a licensed attorney. Neither Eastern PA Trans Equity Project, Inc., nor its staff have an attorney-client privilege with the reader.