

SUPPORTING TRANSGENDER CLIENTS IN UPDATING THEIR ID DOCUMENTS

Over half of transgender, gender non-conforming and non-binary people in the U.S. do not have an ID that correctly reflects their gender identity or name. The process to update one's identification documents can be overwhelming and inaccessible.

Familiarize yourself with the basic steps for ID updates so you can offer referrals and encouragement to clients:



Sylvia Rivera Law Project offers a step-by-step guide to legally changing your name and updating your ID documents in New York: www.srlp.org/changeid



National Center for Transgender Equality provides guidance on correcting birth certificates issued by other states: www.transequality.org/documents

Be sure to let your client know that correcting their New York City or New York State birth certificate is now simpler than ever!

Many forms of identification require a letter from a licensed medical doctor in order to change the gender marker listed, as though trans and gender non-conforming people cannot be trusted to speak for themselves about their gender identity.

However, recent legislation in New York City and New York State has made it possible for transgender and gender non-conforming people to correct the gender marker on their birth certificates through simple self-attestation. People born in New York City also have the option of requesting a gender marker of "X" rather than male or female.

To correct the gender marker on their New York City or New York State birth certificate, your client must submit a completed application form, processing fee and a notarized form on which they attest their true gender identity.*

Refer eligible clients to the Name Change Project at Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund (TLDEF)

TLDEF's Name Change Project provides pro bono legal name change services to low-income transgender, gender non-conforming and non-binary people through partnerships with prestigious law firms. TLDEF accepts clients from all five NYC boroughs, Suffolk County and Nassau County.

Visit www.transgenderlegal.org for more info or to complete the intake form.

*Gender marker correction for minors requires notarized attestation from their parent/legal guardian. For more details and to easily access all required forms, please visit the Sylvia Rivera Law Project URL listed above.

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