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## Gender Designation Change

Passports are valid for different lengths of time depending on where you are in your gender transition.

Status of Gender Transition	Validity of Passport
You have had appropriate clinical treatment*	10 years
You are in the process of getting appropriate clinical treatment	2 years

\*Your physician determines what appropriate clinical treatment is.

### Requirements

You must apply using [Form DS-11](#) , unless you are replacing a limited-validity passport in your correct gender (see below). **In addition** to the regularly-required documents\*, submit the following:

- ID that resembles your current appearance
- Passport photo that resembles your current appearance
- A [medical certification](#) that indicates you are in the process of or have had appropriate clinical treatment for gender transition
- Proof of legal name change (if applicable)

\*See [Apply in Person](#) for all regularly-required passport documents.

### Medical Certification

A signed, original statement from a licensed physician must be on office letterhead and include:

- Physician's full name, address, and telephone number
- Medical license or certificate number
- Issuing state or other jurisdiction of medical license/certificate
- Language stating that:
  - He or she has a doctor/patient relationship with you
  - He or she has treated you or has reviewed and evaluated your medical history
  - You have had, or are in process of having, appropriate clinical treatment for transition to the updated gender (male or female)
- The statement must include, "I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the forgoing is true and correct."

A [template medical certification](#) is available for download here.

### Replacing a Limited-Validity Passport

You may have received a limited-validity passport because your gender transition was still in process. To replace a limited-validity passport for a full validity passport, submit [Form DS-5504](#) (at no additional cost). To use this form, you must apply within two years of your previous passport's issue date.

Submit the following:

- Your limited passport book
- Passport photo that resembles your current appearance
- A [medical certification](#) indicating you have had appropriate clinical treatment for gender transition

Description of specific treatments is not required. The certification from your physician is based on his or her judgment of your treatment needs. This is in accordance with standards and recommendations of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health ([WPATH](#) ), recognized as the authority in this field by the American Medical Association ([AMA](#) ).

## Frequently Asked Questions

Expand All

**Do I need to have the gender on my birth certificate and/or driver's license changed before I can get it changed on my passport?**

**What is appropriate clinical treatment?**

**Is there a specific requirement needed to get a 10-year passport vs. a 2-year passport?**

**Do I need to apply using Form DS-11?**

**Can my therapist, psychologist, naturopath, etc. submit a medical certification?**

**If I get a 2-year passport, do I have to submit a new photo when I extend to a 10-year passport?**

**If all of my domestic documents have already been updated (birth certificate, driver's license, etc.) do I still need a medical certification? Why?**

**If I have a court order showing a legal gender change do I still need to obtain a medical certification from a physician? Why?**

**If I identify neither as male or female, can I have a passport issued with a different gender?**

**I followed the requirements on this page, but I got a letter requesting more information. What do I do now?**

**Will anyone ask me questions about my medical history besides what is stated in my medical certification?**

**I had a bad customer service experience at an acceptance facility or passport agency. How can I complain?**

**How do I update the gender marker on a passport for my minor child?**

**Does my ID have to be in my current name?**

### Helpful Links

[Apply In Person](#)  
[Passport Forms](#)  
[Passport Photos](#)  
[LGBTI Travel Information](#)

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