

# Can I Change My Name in IL if I Have a Criminal Record?



## You *cannot* change your name in IL if:

- You have a felony conviction within the past 10 years. \*\*Note that 10 years must have passed since the completion of your full sentence, including parole or probation.
- You have to comply with the sex offender registry.
- You have a conviction for identity theft or aggravated identity theft.

## HOWEVER, there are a few exceptions:

- Your conviction(s) was pardoned
- Certain Class 4 felony cannabis convictions under the Cannabis Control Act

## Regardless of your criminal record, you *can* change your gender marker:

Here are links and more information

- **Changing gender marker on your Driver's License:** Complete this [Gender Designation Change form](#)(1) and bring it to your [nearest Secretary of State facility](#)(2) with your current license. Right now IL only allows M or F as gender markers on your driver's license, but in 2024 they will start allowing X as an option for non-binary individuals.
- **Changing gender marker on your Birth Certificate:** After updating your license, you can change your gender marker on your birth certificate by completing [this form](#)(3). \*Note that the second page must be filled out by a medical or mental health professional. You may select "N" as your preferred gender marker on your birth certificate if you identify as non-binary.

## Questions?

If you have a criminal conviction, we recommend contacting us for an attorney consultation. The criminal legal system is intentionally confusing and oppressive. Please reach out to us with any questions!

The Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois (TJLP) contact info:

[TJLP website](#)(4)

**TJLP phone:** (312) 558-1472

**TJLP email** for general inquiries: [info@tjlp.org](mailto:info@tjlp.org)

## HB 2542 - The Name Change Modernization Bill

HB 2542, also known as "The Name Change Modernization Bill", seeks to: eliminate barriers to name changes for people with convictions, create statewide forms to make the name change process easier for all individuals, and also waives the publication requirement. This bill is currently pending, click [here](#)(5) to easily send a message to your elected official to show your support.

More information about this bill can be found [here](#)(6).

## Links

1. [https://www.ilsos.gov/publications/pdf\\_publications/dsd\\_a329.pdf](https://www.ilsos.gov/publications/pdf_publications/dsd_a329.pdf)
2. <https://apps.ilsos.gov/facilityfinder/facility>
3. <https://dph.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idph/files/forms/gender-reassignment-2017.pdf>
4. <https://www.tjlp.org/>
5. <https://secure.everyaction.com/tkroHAE8VE6xgr3lq8fVjQ2>
6. <https://www.aclu-il.org/en/legislation/hb-2542-name-change>