

## Travel Checklist by Rush Passport

Welcome to Travel Checklist - an informative and engaging guide “packed” with (pun intended) travel news, updates and features. We explore and navigate the latest in travel.



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## Your Guide to Changing the Gender Marker on Passports.

We feel that it is important for personal identification documents to reflect one's true identity. One aspect of this is ensuring that your passport accurately

represents your gender identity. This not only affirms your identity, but also facilitates a smoother travel experience. While changing the gender marker on a passport can seem quite daunting at first - with the right information, guidance, and help - it becomes a relatively simple process. Here's what you need to know and how to get started.

In June 2021, the U.S. Department of State announced a [significant policy change](#), allowing applicants to self-select their gender marker, removing the need for medical certification during the application process for renewals. This policy applies to both adults and minors. Additionally, a new "X" gender marker option was introduced for non-binary, intersex, and gender non-conforming individuals in April 2022. Under this current policy for [U.S. passports](#), you can easily obtain a passport with an updated marker by filling out an application form and indicating whether you would like your gender marker to read "M," "F," or "X." Again, changing the gender marker on a U.S. passport doesn't require a doctor's certification. You may simply select the gender marker you'd like to appear on your passport by choosing one of the available options on a passport application form. You do not need to submit medical records or documentation regarding your medical history or treatment and your doctor does not need to state that you have undergone any procedure. In addition, this policy applies to both adults and minors. For more information on procuring a passport for a minor, please see our recent articles on applying for a passport for both [children under 16](#) and [applicants 16 to 17 years of age](#).

These important policy changes reflect a growing recognition and acceptance of [gender diversity](#) and [inclusion](#) both in the U.S. and abroad. Various EU countries have adopted similar measures, with countries like Germany and Denmark introducing non-binary options and simplifying the process for changing gender markers on passports and other forms of identification.

In the U.K., [The Gender Recognition Act of 2004](#) allowed individuals to change their gender legally and obtain a new birth certificate. Once this legal change is made, individuals can then apply for a new passport with the correct gender marker. In Canada, in August 2017, the government introduced an "X" option on passports, in addition to "M" and "F," to recognize non-binary and gender non-conforming identities. This change followed earlier amendments to policies allowing for easier gender marker changes on documents without the need for surgical proof. In New York State, in 2021, [The Gender Recognition Act](#) ensured that New Yorkers can have their gender identity on official documents as well as providing protections to reduce discrimination against nonbinary and transgender New Yorkers.

Jamie, a 28-year-old from Greenwich Connecticut, shared their personal experience of changing the gender marker on their passport. "I was pleased to finally get my correct gender identity marker on my passport. The process was a

little intimidating at first, but once I completed my application, the actual submission was straightforward. After receiving my new passport, it was a huge relief to see my true identity reflected."

Alex, a non-binary from New York City, shared their experience as well, saying that the advice and support from their local LGBTQ+ group really helped. "My advice is to reach out to your local group and also consider enlisting the help of a passport expeditor, which streamlines the entire process, while providing support as well. I had to get my passport renewed for a last minute trip. I'm so glad I was able to get it so quickly and with my updated gender marker as well."

Your Checklist at a Glance: Updating Your Gender Marker on an Existing Passport or Applying for a Passport for the First Time.

If you are applying to change your gender marker, submitting a passport [application for the first time](#), or applying for a passport when your old passport has expired, *you must apply in person*.

You will need to complete and submit:

1. Application for U.S. Passport ([Form DS-11](#));
2. Proof of U.S. Citizenship (such as a previous U.S. Passport, certified Birth Certificate, Certificate of Naturalization, or Report of Birth Abroad);
3. Proof of Identity that contains your signature and photograph that is "a good likeness to you" (such as a previous U.S. Passport, a Driver's License, a Certificate of Naturalization, Military Identification, or a Government Employee Identification Card). You must present the original AND provide a photocopy of the front and back side with your application;
4. A recent color photograph 2x2 inches in size;
5. If you are changing your name on your passport, an Order for Name Change (certified copy showing a seal and officiate/judge signature);
6. Fee

At both the national and state level, we are seeing more support for the rights of the LGBTQ+ community. For over two decades, our company has been serving travelers nationwide, providing excellent customer service for our clientele. We are pleased to be able to help our LGBTQ+ clients with their passport, visa and travel document needs. You can reach us directly at (212) 643-9305. Live agents are available to take your call. We look forward to hearing from you.

Other resources:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/need-passport/selecting-your-gender-marker.html>

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/travelers-with-special-considerations/lgbtqi.html>

<https://gaycitynews.com/gender-recognition-act-signed-into-law-marriage-anniversary/>

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/gender-x-appear-us-passport-applications-state-dept-2022-03-31/>