



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

## Gender & Sexuality Resource Center

*Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management*

# Trans@ NIU Resource Guide

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## Gender Marker Change: Illinois Driver's License:

### The Illinois policy states:

“This office does not require a court order to prove a change of gender. However, such a court order shall be considered as best evidence to process the gender change. A customer who requests a change in file information to reflect a gender change must provide at least one of the following:

- Medical Report Form;
- Psychiatric Report Form;
- Physician's statement or;
- Other acceptable documentation to indicate that a change has taken place or the customer is in the process of undergoing the gender change.”

-Source - [http://cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/drivers/drivers\\_license/drlicid.html#dupcordl](http://cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/drivers/drivers_license/drlicid.html#dupcordl)

To change one's gender marker on the license is a matter of bringing in one of those documents to the local branch of the Department of Motor Vehicles. That means one requires some type of safe passage\* letter from a medical provider in place of documentation of a legal name change or “sexual reassignment surgery.” This makes Illinois one of the most lax states when it comes to the requirements for gender change on a driver's license. A legal name change still serves as the best evidence for transitions but these other forms are acceptable. The more detailed the safe passage letter the better. (ex: physical description, former and preferred name, height, weight, eye and hair color etc.)

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*\* A **safe passage letter** is “a medical certification of appropriate clinical treatment for gender transition in the form of an original letter from a licensed physician. The document must have enough biographical data (e.g., name and date of birth) to clearly identify you” according to the Social Security Administration. This document is generally obtained from a licensed physician as proof you are undergoing medical transition procedures.*

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