



What Happens Now?

Lauren here! Congrats on getting your name change forms all buttoned-up and ready to go. But we can't celebrate quite yet: just having your forms in hand is but one part of the process. You'll need to take care of the rest of this stuff outside of my office...

But, don't sweat: I've prepped this handy checklist for you to take with you, free of charge! So feel free to save a copy, print it out, write all over it – whatever helps you the most!

Your To-Do List:

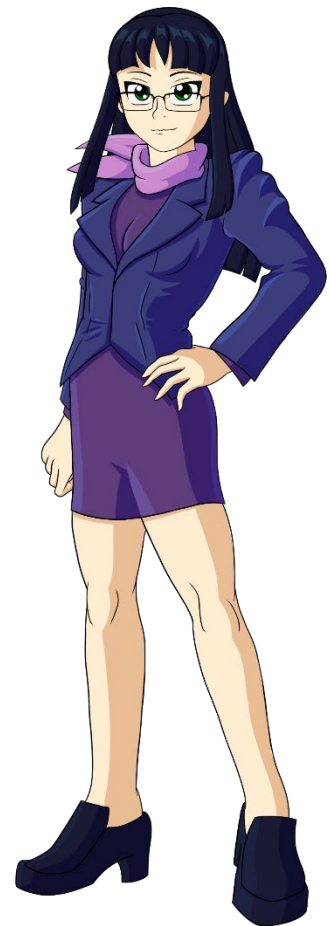
State: Arkansas

- Take your Name Change Petition and get it notarized.
- Go to the local County Clerk's office and file your petition. **This has a \$140-\$165 fee.**
- ***When you go to file your petition***, bring your cover sheet with you.
- Attend in court on your hearing date. **You HAVE to attend this.**

*Remember! If the court asks you why you want to change your name, the following is perfectly acceptable: **"I want a name that more accurately reflects my gender identity."***

Note: You may be required to show additional documents during this process. Bring your Driver's License, Birth Certificate or Passport, and copies of bills showing your current address to any notary or court visit you make!

After that – congratulations! You've got a bona-fide court order in hand, and your new name is – legally speaking – rightfully yours!



Once your name change has been approved, it's time to update your shiny new name with several other government agencies:

- [Social Security Administration](#) **(This has to be done first!)**
- [Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration](#) **(You'll need to make an appointment)**
 - Make sure to bring a copy of your Name Change order from the court and **\$10.00**

But, Lauren! That fee for submitting my name change is way too high! What can I do?

If you can't afford to pay the filing fee, you may be able to submit In Forma Pauperis – aka. A fee waiver! If you submit a fee waiver, the court will consider the current poverty guidelines for the state and consider your ability to pay the fee based on how much money you currently own and make. [Learn more at Arkansas Law Help.](#)