

 YOUTHOUTLOOK

Legal Support for LGBTQ+ Individuals:
Building Affirming Services



Fall 2025



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Meet Carolyn
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Co-Coordinator, Name Change
Mobilization Programming,
Transformative Justice Law
Project of IL

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Please introduce yourself to your neighbor....

- Name
- Pronouns you use (she/her, he/him, they/them, something else?)
- What is your organization doing well when it comes to LGBTQ+ clients?



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Learning Objectives:

1. An overview of LGBTQ+ terminology
2. Understanding pronouns: how to ask, how to document
3. Review current landscape and updates to IL Name Change Laws
4. Complete practice scenarios
5. Brief overview of resources available



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Community Agreements

- Shape the discussion to fit your needs
- Half thoughts are welcome
- What happens here, stays here; what's learned here, leaves here
- Respect where each person is
- Commitment to dismantling barriers
- Any others?



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About Youth Outlook

Youth Outlook celebrates, empowers, advocates for, and provides services to meet the ever-evolving needs of LGBTQ+ youth and their families, friends, and communities.

Drop-In Center
Parent & Family Support
Community Education & Professional Development
Health & Wellness Navigation



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Transformativ Justice Law Project

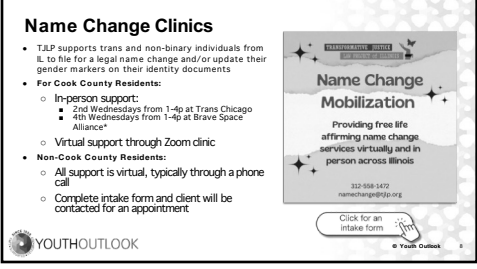
Free name and gender marker change services for trans and non-binary Illinois residents

TJLP IS DEEPLY COMMITTED TO:

- the universal right of gender self-determination
- a long-term goal of abolishing the prison-industrial complex
- transformative justice principles as necessary alternatives to the criminal punishment system

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Name Change Clinics

- TJLP supports trans and non-binary individuals from IL to file for a legal name change and/or update their gender markers on their identity documents
- For Cook County Residents:
 - In-person support:
 - 2nd Wednesdays from 1-4p at Trans Chicago
 - 4th Wednesdays from 1-4p at Brave Space Alliance*
 - Virtual support through Zoom clinic
- Non-Cook County Residents:
 - All support is virtual, typically through a phone call
 - Complete intake form and client will be contacted for an appointment

Name Change Mobilization

Providing free life affirming name change services virtually and in person across Illinois

312-558-1472
namechange@tjlp.org

Click for an intake form

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What trends (positive or challenges) are you experiencing when working with LGBTQ+ clients?

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[illegible]

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SOGIE Identities

We all have them and they are separate things.



Sexual Orientation
Sexual/romantic attraction



Gender Identity
Personal sense of gender



Sex Assigned at Birth
Male, Female, Other/Intersex



Gender Expression
Outward display of gender

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Common Terms Related to Sexual Orientation

Sexual/romantic attraction

Asexual/Asexuate Lack of or low level of sexual/romantic attraction for others	Bisexual Attraction to members of more than one gender	Homosexual/Homosexuals Sexual/romantic attraction only after forming a strong emotional connection	Gay Attraction to people of the same gender
Graysexual/Graysexuals Experience attraction only sometimes, or attraction with no desire for a relationship	Lesbian A woman or non-binary person who is attracted to other women or non-binary people	Pansexual/Pansexuals Attraction to people of any gender identity or regardless of gender	Queer Not fitting in with sexuality or gender expectations. Be careful as not everyone has reclaimed this term.

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Transgender

- Describes a person whose gender identity does not align with their sex assigned at birth
- Transgender is an adjective - it is ~~not~~ a noun or verb
- Do say, *Sam is a transgender man* or *Carrie is a transgender woman*
- ~~Don't~~ say, *transgendered* or *transgenders*

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Non-Binary

- An umbrella term that describes gender identities that don't fit within the accepted binary of male and female
- Individuals can feel they are both genders, neither, or some mixture thereof
- Terms under this umbrella: genderqueer, gender fluid, agender, bigender, etc.
- Non-binary folks may use they/them/theirs pronouns or others

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Queer

- This term has been embraced and reclaimed by the LGBTQ+ community as a symbol of pride
- Historically, this was a derogatory slang term used to identify LGBTQ+ people
- Represents individuals who do not fit in with the expectations for sexuality or gender
- May hear this word used in place of the acronym LGBTQ+

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Cisgender

- A term for people whose gender identity aligns with the sex they were assigned at birth
- Cisgender people can be any sexual orientation, such as bisexual, gay, lesbian, heterosexual, etc.
- Do say *cis* or *cisgender*
- **Don't** say *normal*, *biological*, or *real*

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Intersex

- An umbrella term for variations in sex traits or reproductive anatomy
- These traits might not fit inside traditional conceptions of what male or female bodies look like
- Intersex people are born with variations in their internal or external anatomy, hormones or chromosomes
- Intersex is not a disorder, disease, or condition

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Transition/Transitioning:

Someone's process of developing and assuming a gender expression to match their gender identity



May or may not include hormonal and/or surgical procedures



Includes fully, partially, and irreversible interventions



Transitioning is unique to the individual! No singularly defined way to transition

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Navigating Transition



Social
Name and pronoun use, gender presentation changes, accessing facilities based on gender identity

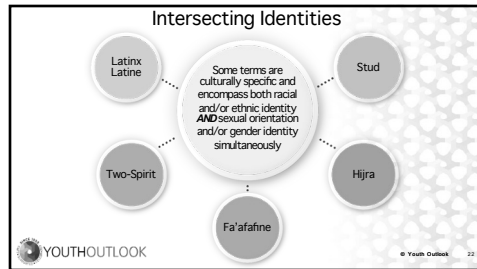


Medical
Gender affirming care may or may not include hormonal therapy, surgical treatments, voice coaching, etc.



Legal
Changing gender marker on legal documents like driver's license, passport, social security card, birth certificate, and/or legal name change

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Let's Practice!
This client is non-binary.
Say a sentence using they/them pronouns.

Remember, if you make a mistake:

- 1 Apologize or thank the person who corrected you
- 2 Correct yourself
- 3 Move on
- 4 Practice

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Inclusive Ways to Greet People
Reduce Binary Language

✓ **Do say**

- Your child/student
- Good morning, folks
- Hello, friends
- This person here...
- LGBTQ+ community
- Clients of all genders

✗ **Don't say**

- Your son/daughter
- Ladies & Gentleman
- You guys
- Gay community
- Sir/ma'am

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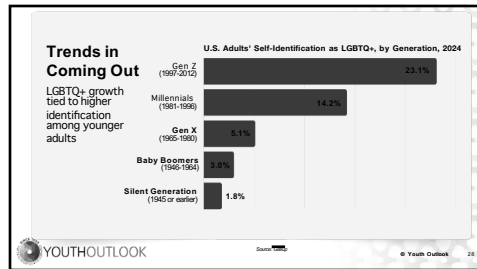
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What's Happening in Our Community

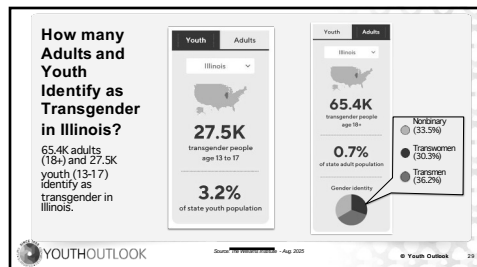


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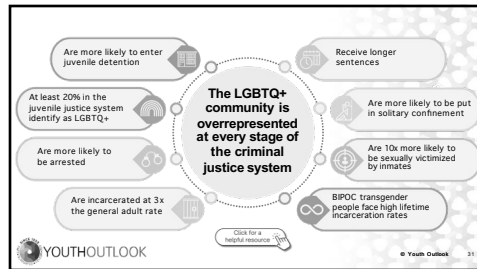
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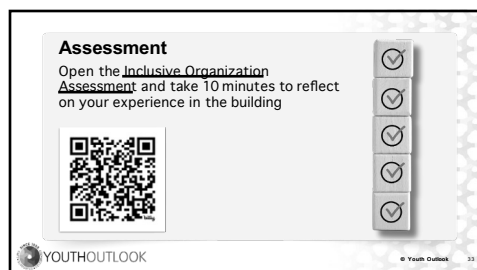
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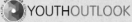
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Considering your role, what can you do to create more inclusive practices with LGBTQ+ individuals and communities?



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Gender Marker Laws & Policies



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Changes to Gender Marker Laws

- "X" designation as a gender marker option is rolling out on various documents. Certain states allow for an X on birth certificates.
- IL now allows "X" on drivers licenses and state IDs in 2024
- Passports began allowing an X designation in April 2022, but that was paused by the current federal administration. They are issuing them now during a pause in a law suit but we don't know how long that will last.
- Social Security does not currently allow people to change their gender marker.

FAQ: Should you change your gender marker to X?



A person born in Illinois is now able to correct the gender marker on their birth certificate to a gender-neutral designation.



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Eligibility for Name Change in Illinois (changed 3/1/25)

- Parental or guardian consent required if under 18
- Live in Illinois for at least 3 months at the time of hearing
- File in the county where you live
- Publication is no longer required and petitioners can ask for a motion to impound (seal) the case
- Felony ban was lifted, but felony sentence does need to be complete.
 - HB2542 removed the ten year waiting period for people with felony convictions and removed the lifetime ban for people with identity theft convictions
 - If you've been previously convicted of a felony, your sentence needs to be complete, including the completion of probation or parole/mandatory supervised release
 - Added a judicial discretion exception for people seeking a name change due to gender-related identity, marriage, religion and status as a human trafficking survivor to the registration period ban in the Sex Offender, Arsonist and Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registration Act
 - We still recommend consulting T&P or an attorney if your client has a felony conviction

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Do I qualify for a Fee Waiver?

Costs vary per county:

Filing fee	\$306-388
Certified copies (4-5 recommended)	\$7-9/copy
Updating driver's license or state ID	\$5-20
Updating IL birth certificate	\$15
Updating social security card	Free

Qualifying for a Fee Waiver is based on household income

- Households receiving public benefits such as SNAP, TANF, SSI, can automatically qualify
- Otherwise, complete Fee Waiver Application explaining income and expenses
- May need to attend Fee Waiver Hearing or judge will review and sign an Order of Fee Waiver
- Fee Waivers for households making up to 200% of the federal poverty line

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Brief Overview of Process/Requirements

Illinois uses an electronic filing platform called Odyssey E-File to file court documents. Most people use this to file but there are some exceptions.

1. Filing process depends on the county you live in, with each county having slightly different procedures for paperwork required.
2. Adults 18 and up, complete a Request for Name Change (Adult) to file and submit a fee waiver application, if applicable.
3. Typically after this is accepted, a case number will be assigned. Then the petitioner can file a Motion to Impound, if applicable.
4. From here, the process varies by county with what additional paperwork is submitted to get a court date, etc.
5. Once the court date is established, the petitioner goes to court and hopefully leaves with an Order of Name Change that is certified and used to update their name on all their legal documents.

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Gender Marker Change

- The court process for a legal name change **only** changes your name.
- There is no court process to change your gender marker in IL – which is a good thing!
- Individuals can change their gender marker on their documents and provide the information each ID requires to change their name.
- This works well for **most** everyone, however, if you were born in a state that requires a court order for gender change, you can now file for a petition for an out-of-state court order for gender change. Must meet eligibility of that state.



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Should I Change My Gender Marker?

- That is an individual decision that each person needs to make.
- Weigh the pros and cons with individuals.

Click for a helpful resource 



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Practice Scenarios





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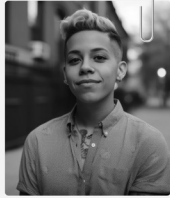
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Scenario #1

You are working with a client, Kam, whose legal name is Kamilla. Kam clearly presents more masculine and uses he/him pronouns.

You want to ensure that Kam is gendered correctly going into court, what might you do in your role?




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Scenario #2

You've been assigned to work with a client, Alec, who is non-binary and uses they/them pronouns. Alec has been ordered to complete mandatory mental health treatment. Most of the programs you know are for men or women and you're not sure where to send Alec.

What do you do next?




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Scenario #3

You have a trans intern who isn't out to everyone at your organization. They come to you in supervision and share they were listening in on a staffing of a case about a non-binary young person.

Your intern reports that a coworker laughed about the client and said that back in her day, there were two genders and all of this non-binary stuff is nonsense. She continues on to say that kids even think they are animals now.

Your intern shares they were hurt by the conversation and that they didn't feel comfortable saying anything.

What might you do next?




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Scenario #4

You are working with a family who has a transgender teenager girl, Angel. Angel's mother, Belinda, uses she/her pronouns for Angel and is generally supportive, although she slips up from time to time. Angel's father, Roberto, is not on board. The parents have split custody and Angel is refusing to go to her father's house because he doesn't let her wear makeup or her girl clothes. Angel is working with you and asks what she can do to avoid going to her dad's house.

What might you do next?




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Action Steps

After today, what is the next thing you plan to do in your practice?




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RESOURCES

 youth-outlook.org

 [Online Resources & Information](#)

 [West Suburban Community Network](#)

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Drop-In Center Locations
For LGBTQ+ youth ages 12-20

- Bolingbrook
- DeKalb
- Downers Grove
- Elmhurst
- Joliet/Lockport
- Naperville
- Ottawa
- Palatine
- Peoria
- Sterling
- Virtual





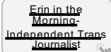
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Stay Up-To-Date
Follow these trusted sources for the latest updates on LGBTQ+ rights and policy changes.

 **Pride Connect**
Legal Hotline
855-805-9200
(Mon-Thur, 9a-4p)

 **Movement Advancement Project**

 **Erin in the Morning**
Independent Trans Journalist

 **Chase Strangio: ACLU LGBTQ+**
Project on Insidious

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Thank you!

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