



Are you an LGBTQI teen?

Do you have questions about how the law protects you?

Here is some info about your legal rights and things like name and gender changes on legal documents.

This brochure is intended as reference only and should not be interpreted as legal advice. If you need specific information about the law, please call 860-570-5327 or 203-335-0719.

Home

I came out to my parents and got kicked out.

You can get help from DCF (Department of Children and Families). If you are under 18 and on your own because you got kicked out or because of abuse or neglect, call DCF for help at 1-800-842-2288. You can call any time, day or night.

DCF can help even if you are undocumented. They will not call Immigration (ICE, Immigration and Customs Enforcement).

I'm moving around a lot and don't have a permanent place to live.

For more about your rights, check our *Moving Around* brochure. Go to speakupteens.org and click on Rights and Resources.

Foster Care

My foster parents say it's wrong to be LGBTQI.

DCF policy says LGBTQI youth must be treated fairly and equally. DCF and foster parents must be sensitive and helpful. Call your lawyer, the DCF Ombudsman or our office if you are discriminated against because of your sexual orientation or gender. Phone numbers are on the back of this brochure.

School

Connecticut law says all students must have equal access to education without discrimination. The school must protect you from bullying and harassment.

To find out more about your rights at school, check our brochure about *Bullying*. Go to speakupteens.org and click on Rights and Resources.

A teacher, coach or principal is discriminating against me because of my sexual orientation or gender identity.

Schools have to protect LGBTQI students from harassment and discrimination in the same way they protect all other students. If you report being bullied at school, you cannot be told that you caused this by being LGBTQI or dressing in a way that matches your gender expression.

If you think you're discriminated against, you or your parent/guardian can:

- File a complaint with the school's Title IX coordinator (ask the school who this is)
- File a complaint with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO), or U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights (OCR)
- Bring a lawsuit in state or federal court

Can I use bathrooms and locker rooms that match my gender identity?

Yes. The State Department of Education says public schools must let students use the bathrooms and locker rooms that match their gender identity.

If you're concerned about your safety, you can request that the school give you access to a single-stall bathroom or a private changing room.

Can I wear clothes that match my gender identity?

Yes, the school must allow you to dress in a way that matches your gender identity.

Can I participate in sports that match my gender identity?

The school must allow you to participate in sports and other programs that match your gender identity.

What should I do if the school violates my rights as a transgender student?

Check with your school for the procedure to file a grievance. You can also file a complaint with the State Department of Education or the CHRO.

Work

What should I do if I am denied a job or mistreated because of my gender identity?

Discrimination based on gender and sex is illegal. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) says transgender employees are protected by Federal law. Connecticut also has laws against employment discrimination. If you are discriminated against, you can file a claim with the EEOC or with the CHRO.

Detention

I'm undergoing gender transition and am afraid I won't be able to express my identity in detention.

Juvenile detention cannot discriminate against LGBTQI youth. This includes gender expression.

You cannot be isolated from other youth, but the detention facility may assign you a single room if you or the staff believes there is a threat to your safety.

All juveniles in detention usually shower alone regardless of gender identity or expression.

Talk to your lawyer or call our office if you are discriminated against because of your sexual orientation or gender identity. Check our book called *Legal Rights in Detention* at cca-ct.org/detentionrights.

Legal Documents Name Change and Gender Change

Can I change my name and gender on legal documents like my Birth Certificate, Social Security Card, Driver's License, Passport?

If you are 18 and older, the law allows you to do this on your own. If you are under 18, you need the consent of your parent/guardian to change your name and gender on legal documents.

Here are the steps:

1. Probate Court

Go to the Probate Court closest to you or go to ctprobate.gov to get a name change form. Complete the form and give it to the Probate Court. There is a cost to file, but if you don't have the money, you can ask for a fee waiver. When the Probate Court approves your name change, you will get a court order that you can use to change your name on legal documents.

2. Social Security Card

Go to your closest Social Security office and bring the court order from the Probate Court and proof of your identity. Fill out an application for a new Social Security card. They will mail your new card to you.

3. Driver's License or Non-Driver ID Card

To change only your name, go to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and bring the documents from the Probate Court and from Social Security.

To change your gender marker on your Driver's License or Non-Driver ID, you must complete a Gender Designation Change Form that you can get from the DMV (ct.gov/dmv/lib/dmv/20/29/b-372.pdf). You must have a medical or social service provider complete the second part of the form.

4. Birth Certificate

To change your name, submit a Birth Certificate Request Form and a copy of your Probate Court Order to the Department of Public Health.

If you also want to change your gender marker on your Birth Certificate, you must submit:

- Birth Certificate Request Form
- Probate Court Order
- Your written statement that your gender differs from the sex on your original Birth Certificate
- Notarized statement from a medical or mental health provider that you have undergone clinical treatment appropriate for gender transition
- Copy of your photo ID
- \$30 money order payable to Treasurer, State of Connecticut

Mail these documents to:
Vital Records Office
Department of Public Health
410 Capitol Ave
Hartford, CT 06134

5. Passport

For detailed information about Gender Designation Changes on your passport, please link here: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/apply-renew-passport/gender.html>

For questions about name and gender marker changes, contact our office. Phone numbers are on the back of this brochure.



Need Help?

If you are bullied or discriminated against because of your sexual orientation or gender identity, there are laws to protect you.

Center for Children's Advocacy
860-570-5327 or 203-335-0719
speakupteens.org and cca-ct.org

State Department of Education (information on bullying)
sde.ct.gov and type "bullying" into the search box

Gay Lesbian & Straight Education Network glsen.org

True Colors ourtruecolors.org

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders glad.org

Lambda Legal Education & Defense Fund lambdalegal.org

To file a Discrimination Complaint
Commission on Human Rights & Opportunities ct.gov/chro

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights
ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission eeoc.gov



speakupteens.org
cca-ct.org

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LGBTQI
Teens

What are my rights?