



## **Information for LGBTQIA+ Constituents**

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## **Transportation and Security Administration (TSA)**

The Transportation and Security Administration (TSA) released new guidance in June 2023 on gender neutrality at airport screenings.

If there is a screening alarm by technology, or you opt out of screening by technology, a pat-down is required and is conducted by an officer of the same gender as the officer's assessment of how you present. You may choose to inform the officer of your gender identity and make a request that the pat-down be conducted by an officer of that gender.

Screening can be conducted in the checkpoint area, or you may request a pat-down in private. You can also request that your traveling companion accompany you. You are not required to remove or lift any article of clothing to reveal sensitive body areas. You may be asked to adjust loose-fitting clothing by the officer performing the pat-down.

The TSA PreCheck® program application has also been updated to include an additional gender marker option to better serve non-binary and gender non-conforming passengers.

TSA allows TSA PreCheck® applicants to select their gender based on self-attestation, regardless of the sex assigned at birth.

Should you face any issues in your PreCheck applications or have issues during screenings our office is available to assist. We will simply need a completed release form: <https://digitalprf.house.gov/AddressAuthentication?id=IL05>

# Passports

In October 2021, the State Department enacted policies allowing for non-binary gender markings on passports. This expanded on 2011 regulations allowing for a change in gender markers.

The gender you select does not need to match the gender on your citizenship evidence or photo ID. You no longer need to provide medical documentation to change your gender marker.

You may have received a [limited-validity passport](#) if you were transitioning when you applied for your most recent passport.

To replace a limited-validity passport with a full-validity passport, [submit Form DS-5504](#). To use this form, you must apply within two years of your previous passport's issuance date. You do not have to pay fees unless you are requesting expedited service.

If your limited-validity passport was issued more than two years ago, [apply in person](#) and use Form DS-11.

If you have any issues in obtaining your passport or additional questions our office is available to assist. We will simply need a completed release form:  
<https://digitalprf.house.gov/AddressAuthentication?id=IL05>

In the form, please select Dept. of State as the “agency involved” from the drop-down menu.

In addition, the agency asks for this information to locate and process the application. Please include in your privacy release:

- 1) Applicant's name
- 2) Date of birth
- 3) Social Security Number
- 4) Passport Locator Number
- 5) City/state where the applicant applied
- 6) Any urgent or emergency circumstance
- 7) Applicant contact information: phone number/e-mail address
- 8) Date of intended travel

Members of the LGBTQIA+ community should take steps to ensure their safety and ease *before* and *during* their travel.

*Before your travel*, be sure to research your destination using the Department of State's [Traveler's Checklist](#) and [Learn About Your Destination](#) feature pages. Specific information for LGBTQIA+ travelers can be found in the "Local Laws & Special Circumstances" section of each page. You can also visit the [LGBTQI+ Travelers' Page](#) to learn more about the safety and security of the country you plan to visit.

# LGBTQIA+ Veteran Care

LGBTQIA+ veterans interested in acquiring VA health care, are welcome to contact their nearest [LGBTQIA+ Veteran Care Coordinator](#). A care coordinator is available in each service area to ensure you receive inclusive affirming care.

The VA has various policies in support of the LGBTQ+ community such as:

- **VHA Directive 1340: Health Care for Veterans who Identify as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual**: This policy states that any attempts (formal or informal) by VHA staff to convert or change a Veteran's sexual orientation are prohibited.
- **VHA Directive 1341: Providing Health Care for Transgender and Intersex Veterans**. This is VA policy on the transgender care offered in VA facilities. This policy includes medically necessary care, such as hormone therapy, mental health care, preoperative evaluation, and post-operative and long-term care following gender-confirming surgery. Gender-confirming surgery cannot be performed or funded by the VA.

LGBTQIA+ veterans interested in acquiring VA health care, are welcome to contact their nearest [LGBTQIA+ Veteran Care Coordinator](#). Resources are also available for various topics such as coming out to your healthcare provider and the [National LGBTQIA+ Health Education Center](#).

If you are a veteran in a crisis, please seek assistance at the following resources:

- Call **988** and Press 1.
- [Chat online](#).
- Text **838255**

Should you encounter issues in obtaining VA care please contact our office at (773) 267-5926 or by completing a Privacy Release Form:

<https://digitalprf.house.gov/AddressAuthentication?id=IL05>

# Immigration

In March 2023, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) began updating its guidance to accept self-identified gender markers for individuals requesting immigration benefits. The selected marker does not need to match supporting documents. With the exception of those submitting Form N565 for Replacement Naturalization/Citizenship Document, you do not need to submit proof of your gender identity. If you are changing your gender marker post initial filings you will need to update and correct your documentation.

If you run into issues with USCIS you can contact by office by completing our Privacy Release Form- <https://digitalprf.house.gov/AddressAuthentication?id=IL05>

In the form, please select USCIS as the “agency involved” from the drop-down menu and include your signature at the end.