Date:

Parent legal name: Enter as it appears on official driver’s license or birth certificate

Parent legal name: Enter as it appears on official driver’s license or birth certificate

Child’s legal name: Enter as it appears on their birth certificate or name change order

Street Address:

City:

St:

Zip:

Email address:

Phone number:

Reference Case #: Enter name/gender case number or leave blank if this is 1st court appearance

We request the court's approval to file our child’s name/gender change under seal.

Write a paragraph to show an overriding interest in overcoming the right of public access.

My child’s name (and gender marker) change is a critical step in her/his affirmation of their gender identity and we would like this to be a positive step in her/his transition. With that said we are concerned this court order is a public record and accessible to anyone willing to look.

Justifying the overriding interest to seal the record - sample below

Transgender people can be susceptible to cyberbullying or even physical violence because their previous names, and by extension their lives, are an open book in the public record. Students, for instance, can and do easily find and share such records when looking for background on a child who is transitioning or a new kid in town. My child has already experienced bullying from other students and we fear that if this record is not sealed further harm may be done to our child if not now, potentially years in the future.

Show there is a substantial probability that the overriding interest will be prejudiced if the record is not sealed. Sample

We do not stand alone in our fears and concerns. With over 100 anti-transgender bills submitted across the nation making transgender children a key issue, many fear for their children’s safety every day.

Here is a list of articles demonstrating a national concern over name and gender changes being publicly available.

* NBC News, Sexual Assault: Trans students say they're targeted at school - [link](https://www.nbcnews.com/nbc-out/out-news/sexual-assault-harassment-bullying-trans-students-say-targeted-school-rcna7803)
* New Jersey Monitor, Name changes now confidential, in support of the transgender community - [link](https://newjerseymonitor.com/briefs/name-changes-in-n-j-now-confidential-in-support-of-transgender-community/)
* jdsupra.com, Good Cause to Seal Name Change Applications for Transgender Litigants - [link](https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/good-cause-to-seal-name-change-8930041/)
* nydailynews.com, California & Washington move to let trans people seal name-change records - [link](https://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/ny-california-washington-seal-transgender-name-change-records-20230225-jmnjq2u3yjfanmqiixgajhawrm-story.html)
* Texas Tribune, Texas AG attempts to get data on trans youth - [link](https://www.texastribune.org/2022/12/14/ken-paxton-transgender-texas-data/)
* Indystar.com, It's dangerous': Why 2 trans women in Indiana fought to keep their name changes private - [link](https://www.indystar.com/story/news/local/2019/07/22/indiana-appeals-court-sides-trans-women-public-name-changes/1558882001/)

The proposed sealing is narrowly tailored

My child is a minor with no criminal past or unresolved debts, our request to file her/his name/gender change under seal is intended to protect him/her and allow our child to have the same opportunities and childhood that other children are provided. At this time in her/his life, there exists no risk of manipulation of the justice system to avoid possible legal action in the future by sealing the record.

No less restrictive means exist to achieve the overriding interest

We feel that obtaining an order to file under seal is one step towards protecting our child’s future. Without the order, the fear of being outed and attacked will never end for our child or us.

Regards,

The parents or guardians of the child's name.