

Guide to Gender-Affirming Care in Michigan



michigan organization on
adolescent sexual health

Below are some rights MI youth have, as well as some challenges they may face in accessing gender-affirming services.

In Michigan, trans people can change their names.*

To do so, they must:

- Appear before a judge,
- Publish their name change in a local paper, and
- Generally, obtain consent from a parent or guardian.¹

In Michigan, trans people can change their gender markers* on their state IDs, licenses, birth certificates, and passports without undergoing any medical treatments.

- However, the form options are only “male” and “female,” which harmfully reinforces a gender binary.²
- Trans youth cannot change their names or genders on their birth certificates without a parent or guardian, unless they are emancipated, however.³
- The Department of State allows trans youth to change their gender markers on their passports without medical certification, but they also only provide binary gender options.⁴ Further, youth under 16 must have two parents or guardians approve their gender change and youth between 16 and under 18 must show that one parent or guardian approves of their gender change.⁵

*Underlined text contains hyperlinks.

Trans Healthcare and Insurance

- Michigan's Medicaid policy explicitly allows for transition-related care, and private health insurance providers cannot refuse to cover transgender-related healthcare services in Michigan.⁶
- Trans people do not need a letter from a therapist to start hormones in Michigan.⁷
- Different healthcare and insurance providers have different policies regarding minors' access to puberty blockers and HRT in Michigan.
- Generally, youth can access puberty blocker at age 16 or younger and can access hormone replacement therapy at age 18 and up. You may have to call both healthcare providers and insurance providers to confirm.
- Minors generally need parental consent for medical and surgical care in Michigan, but minors can receive limited outpatient mental health services, Title X family planning services, and STI diagnosis and treatment without parental consent.⁸
- Under Executive Directive 2021-3, Governor Whitmer prohibited the use of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services funds for conversion therapy; however, our state does not prohibit mental health providers from subjecting LGBTQ+ youth to abusive conversion therapy.⁹

1 Mich. Comp. Laws § 711.1(1).

2 <https://michiganlegalhelp.org/self-help-tools/crime-traffic-and-id/i-want-change-gender-marker-my-id-or-birth-certificate>

3 https://www.michigan.gov/documents/over6_6643_7.pdf

4 Id.

5 <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/need-passport/selecting-your-gender-marker.html#:~:text=How%20do%20I%20update%20the,a%20child%20under%20age%2016;>

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/need-passport/under-16.html>;

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/need-passport/16-17.html>

6 <http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/dch-medicaid/manuals/MedicaidProviderManual.pdf>; Movement Advancement Project. "Equality Maps: Healthcare Laws and Policies." https://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/healthcare_laws_and_policies

Healthcare Providers for Trans Youth in Michigan

- [The National Association of Social Workers](#) compiled a list of certified gender identity therapists in Michigan.
- [The Ruth Ellis Center](#) provides healthcare for LGBTQ+ youth of color in Detroit, experiencing homelessness, in the foster care system, or experiencing other barriers to care.
- [Trans Sistas of Color](#) Project in Detroit offers healthcare, name and gender marker change assistance, and financial assistance to trans women of color.
- [The Grand Rapids LGBTQ+ Healthcare Consortium](#) offers a healthcare directory of LGBTQ-friendly providers.
- [Queering Medicine](#) offers a healthcare directory of LGBTQ-friendly providers in the Lansing area.
- [B.UR.SLF](#) offers a healthcare directory of trans-friendly providers in Michigan.
- [OutFront Kalamazoo](#) compiled a list of trans therapy and healthcare resources.
- [Transgender Michigan](#) offers a directory of healthcare professionals who provide hormone therapy.
- [Planned Parenthood](#) will start to offer gender-affirming care, including hormone therapy, in 2022.

7 <https://www.uofmhealth.org/conditions-treatments/transgender-services/hormone-therapy>

8 https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/Michigan_Minor_Consent_Laws_June20093_392440_7.pdf

9 https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499_90704-561871--,00.html;

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2021-HB-4651>; <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2021-SB-0367>;

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2021-SB-0367>