

# Information for Navigating the Name and Gender Marker Change Process

## Common Issues with the clerk:

- Remember, it is important to wait to sign your petition until you are standing in front of the clerk! This is because clerks in Pima County have been telling people they need their petitions notarized. If you feel comfortable, you can tell the clerk that the law does not require notarization and signing your petition in front of them confirms your identity.
- The filing clerk will also often tell you that you must file a copy of you or your child's birth certificate for a name change to be granted. That is not true. If you feel comfortable, tell the clerk that a birth certificate is not required by law and it is up to the judge, not the clerk, to determine whether your petition satisfies the law. Then insist that the clerk file the petition to allow the judge to decide.

## Common Issues with judges:

- If a judge deadnames or misgenders you, you can say: "Your honor, would you please call me [your name] and use [your pronouns]?"
- If you are petitioning for your child's name change, you can verbally request the judge to seal their name change court file so their name change petition is not an open record accessible to the public: "Your honor, would you please seal my child's records?"

## Having Trouble?

If you have any questions or difficulties, please reach out to [soaznamechangeclinic@gmail.com](mailto:soaznamechangeclinic@gmail.com).

