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said. "Every single agency, every single level of government, every company maintains their own records."

"There is so much for folks to navigate that it can be overwhelming," Zekis said. "People change their names all the time. A lot of these regulations are talking about gender markers."

Oregon's laws dictating how people change their name and gender markers are considered fairly streamlined and progressive compared to other states. Oregon law is not expected to be affected by any action the Trump administration might take – but changing state documentation, such as a driver's license, is often the first step transgender people take, especially if they want to change federal documents, such as a passport.

Transgender people can change their name and gender

via court order. In order to get the court order, a person must fill out a "Petition for Name and Sex Change," which is available at any courthouse in Oregon, along with a declaration supporting the person's petition to change their name and gender.

The paperwork is filed and a public notice is posted for two weeks. The person must appear before a judge who signs a judgment issuing the court order. A public notice of the change makes the name and gender changes official.

To legally change gender, a judge must find that a transgender person has "undergone surgical, hormonal, or other treatment appropriate for you for the purpose of gender transition" or that "sexual reassignment has been completed."

People often assume that "sexual reassignment" means that hormone therapy or a particular surgery has been completed. But the law is meant to be read more broadly

RESOURCES

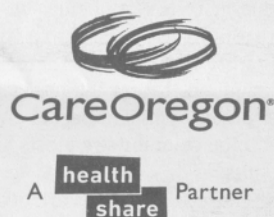
The National Center for Transgender Equality has an ID Document Center, providing resources and rules in every state, including Oregon, on changing identity documents. It is available at www.transequality.org

Basic Rights Oregon has information on changing name and gender markers on identity documents under the "Know Your Rights" section of their website, www.basicrights.org/know-your-rights/

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than that, dos Santos said, which often leads to confusion.

"It's broad to capture all levels of 'completion,'" he said.

"The process of undergoing any kind of transition-related treatment is deeply personal. (It's not) something we want a judge deciding," dos Santos said. "If a person feels like they are sufficiently transitioned for needing a name and gender change, I think the answer is yes, they can get their name and gender changed."

With the court order in hand, a transgender person can change all of their state documents: A driver's license can be changed by filling out an application for a new ID and by filling out the DMV's "Change of Gender Designation Form." Birth certificates can be changed through the state's Center for Health and Vital Statistics.

Prior to June 2010, a person had to present proof of sex reassignment surgery in order to have their passport changed. Currently, a transgender person can submit a driver's license and other proof of identity with their correct name and gender. In certain cases, a letter from a doctor confirming that a person has received treatment for gender transition is also necessary.

"Because of the urgency, people can attempt to get those changes done in advance" of changing state documents, dos Santos said, but it makes getting a letter from the person's doctor – which has to be carefully worded and contain particular information about the sort of medical treatment a person has received – necessary.

At the legal clinics in November, Zekis said there were some transgender people who live in Oregon but were born in a state where it is difficult, if not impossible, to change their birth certificate. "The physician's letter allows for folks who live in states that have difficult requirements ... to get their passport changed."

Changing identity documents is also costly, as much as \$1,000 for the lot. The filing fee and certification of the court order alone costs \$115. The costs associated with driver's licenses and passports are the same fees as if someone were applying for a new ID.

The court filing fee can be waived in cases of financial distress, and resources like Outside In's ID Project provides financial assistance.

Transgender Oregonians traveled from every part of the state, including rural eastern and southwestern Oregon, to attend the clinics in late November, Zekis said. "It was touching to me," she said.

More clinics are scheduled in December. Zekis said many people may have put off changing their identity documents until now. Life happens, especially for a community of people who are disproportionately unemployed and impoverished.

"They knew it was something they had to get done, and suddenly it feels very urgent," she said.

Any action the Trump administration could take that rolls back the rights and liberties of the gay and transgender community is, at this point, rumor and speculation. But advocacy organizations have chosen to proceed with an abundance of caution and action.

"We don't know how easy it will be after January," dos Santos said.