



**POLITICS & GOVERNMENT** FEBRUARY 24, 2016 4:17 PM

# Transgender activist sues state over refusal to change gender on birth certificate

## HIGHLIGHTS

---

Transgender Law Center: Kansas one of three states that will not update birth certificates for transgender people

---

BY BRYAN LOWRY

[blowry@wichitaeagle.com](mailto:blowry@wichitaeagle.com)

A transgender activist has sued the state of Kansas over its refusal to update her gender on her birth certificate.

Stephanie Mott, a Topekan who unsuccessfully sought a vacant seat in the Legislature last year, filed the lawsuit against the Kansas Department of Health and Environment last week.

“One of the first things I ever knew about myself is that I’m a girl, but to this day, the state of Kansas refuses to update my birth certificate to reflect who I truly am,” Mott said in a news release from the Transgender Law Center. “It’s so important for me that my birth certificate reflect my authentic self.”

KDHE denied Mott’s request to amend her birth certificate to list her gender as female, the Transgender Law Center said, adding that the agency has made this type of change to birth certificates in the past but stopped doing so in 2012, shortly after Gov. Sam Brownback took office.

Cassie Sparks, a spokeswoman for the agency, said Wednesday that KDHE does not comment on pending litigation.

Ilona Turner, legal director for the Transgender Law Center, called Kansas’ policy “an extreme outlier,” saying that every other state except Tennessee and Idaho will give transgender people updated birth certificates.

“Having accurate identity documents is not only a matter of human dignity but also an issue of safety,” Mott said in the news release. “I shouldn’t have to out myself as transgender every time I apply for a job or when I register to vote. ... I just want my government to respect who I am and stop trying to make me live as someone I’m not.”

Bryan Lowry: 785-296-3006, @BryanLowry3



## MORE POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

---

### YOU MAY LIKE

Sponsored Links by Taboola

#### 8 Poisonous Foods We Commonly Eat

DailyHeathRemedies.com

#### The 10 best credit cards of 2016

NextAdvisor

#### You Had No Idea These 40 Stars Were Actually Geniuses

Your Daily Dish

#### Jeff Bridges' Magnificent Home Is Beyond Stunning

Lonny

### COMMENTS

8 Comments

Sort by



Add a comment...



**Jeremy Wheeler**

Waaa! Poor baby! The state isn't pandering to his feelings. I'm sorry buddy, but "feelings" does not reality make.

Like · Reply · 1 · Feb 24, 2016 5:38pm



**Clint Moyer**

More tax dollars spent to appease Brownback's morality clause. Glad you don't mind your tax dollars spent defending his religious views.

Like · Reply · 9 · Feb 24, 2016 5:46pm



**Jeremy Wheeler**

Clint Moyer WTF does this have to do with religious views? This has to do with reality. Do a DNA test. I'm pretty positive that it will come back as a man's DNA. But hell, why should REALITY matter right?

Like · Reply · 2 · Feb 24, 2016 5:48pm



**Carla Akins** · Kansas City, Missouri

Jeremy Wheeler What do you lose by the state allowing a change to reflect her gender? Does it change something in your life, cost you money, lose value in your home? Do you gain some magical power by displaying your hate and ignorance or does it just make you feel like a big man to deny someone their identity?

Your were lucky enough to be born a gender that matches your brain, you were blessed again when your sexual orientation matched societies expectations, and let me guess - you're white and we already know you're male. When life has smiled on you so favorably, why can't you extend those not so lucky just a bit of courtesy?

Like · Reply · 16 · Feb 24, 2016 6:30pm

[Show 10 more replies in this thread](#)



**Missy Puckett** · Coach at Beachbody

Hate to tell them But New Jersey wont change your gender if you were born there either.. I dont agree with it though if your Gender marker is changed legally on your drivers licence then it should be on your birth certificate to reflect whom you are.. I wouldnt want my birth certificate to say I was Male if i was legally a Female...

Like · Reply · 3 · Feb 24, 2016 6:25pm



**Geena M Phillips** · Co-founder at Spectrum, Atlanta's Trans Community Choir



Actually, New Jersey will change birth certificates with "proof" of genital surgery (that bloviating turd Chris Christie has twice vetoed legislation to drop that onerous requirement). And I managed to even get around that (PM me if you want details).

Like · Reply · 3 · Feb 24, 2016 8:42pm



**Missy Puckett** · Coach at Beachbody

Geena M Phillips yes please do because my wife was born in NJ and up till now she was always told they would not do it even with surgery.. the only thing they would do was the name change

Like · Reply · 1 · Feb 24, 2016 8:44pm



**Allen Edmonds**

Missy Puckett you're married to a dude.....

Like · Reply · Feb 24, 2016 10:57pm

[Show 4 more replies in this thread](#)



**Geena M Phillips** · Co-founder at Spectrum, Atlanta's Trans Community Choir

Mr. Lowry;

Ohio also refuses to change the gender on birth certificates.

Like · Reply · 1 · Feb 24, 2016 8:37pm



**Jamie Shupe**

Thank you for standing up for your trans brothers and sisters Stephanie!

There's nothing more important than changing these core identity documents, that wield vast legal power.

Like · Reply · 1 · Feb 24, 2016 9:15pm



**Allen Edmonds**

look at his hands....i bet his ring finger is longer than his index....he may dress like a subaru driving, flannel wearing lesbian....but he's a dude

Like · Reply · Feb 24, 2016 10:59pm



**Cori Puckett** · Mechanic/Tech at Performance Bicycle Bailey's Crossroads

Allen Edmonds Wow look at you go ya little troll..... do you have to make mun of others because your dick is only 3cm big..... Get a life seriously

Like · Reply · 2 · Feb 25, 2016 7:53am



**Cindy Bryan-Hendrix** · Wichita State University

You go girl!

Like · Reply · 1 · Feb 24, 2016 11:35pm



### Sunny-D Curles

Woo! Poor thing! The Government is a stupid lyer and a cheater. I am glad you stuck up for yourself . It is humiliating to not have your birth certificate updated. I am sorry for your traumatic experience. I really mean it. You're going to be alright.

Like · Reply · 1 · Feb 25, 2016 6:06am

### Queeraz



We're crowd-funding a giant new social media network for LGBTIQ+ peeps. Can u help? Become a founding member #fab50

<https://vimeo.com/156428268>

Like · Reply · Feb 25, 2016 10:16am



### Jim Washington · Poor Struggling Graduate Student at KSU

The state should certainly do this - just as soon as this individual presents a valid chromosome test showing XX. Or XXX

Like · Reply · Feb 25, 2016 4:42pm



### Through the Darkness

Jim you are clueless.

Like · Reply · 1 · 20 hrs



### Geena M Phillips · Co-founder at Spectrum, Atlanta's Trans Community Choir

It's a darn shame that a graduate student appears to have an understanding of gender informed solely by repeated viewings of Kindergarten Cop.

Like · Reply · 15 hrs



### Jim Washington · Poor Struggling Graduate Student at KSU

Geena M Phillips Sorry ma'm. I am restricted by a believe that there are fixed truths in this world. Physically, Politically, Morally, Legally, Constitutionally.

By the way - I see you are several states removed from KS - are you a paid troll who spends your time checking for your issues all over the country? You are certainly out of step with the vast majority of Kansans.

Like · Reply · 6 hrs

Facebook Comments Plugin