

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE THE PETITION OF:

██████████ PORTER, ██████████
A/K/A ██████████ PORTER,

FOR A NAME CHANGE TO:
CHAUNTEY MO'NIQUE PORTER

CIVIL DIVISION

G.D. No. **d J-1 / <JPL/**

**AFFIDAVIT OF ██████████ PORTER, ██████████, a/k/a
CHAUNTEY MO'NIQUE PORTER**

Code: ___

Filed on behalf of Petitioner

James C. Martin (PA 204336)
Gregory D. Vose (PA 324912)
Zachary S. Roman (PA 325730)
Oluwaseyi A. Odunaiya (PA 329124)
REED SMITH LLP
225 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412) 288-3131

M. Patrick Yingling (PA 311786)
REED SMITH LLP
10. S. Wacker Dr., 40th Fl.
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 207-2834

Gabriel Arkles*
David Brown*
TRANSGENDER LEGAL DEFENSE &
EDUCATION FUND
520 8th Ave., Ste. 2204
New York, NY 10018
(646) 993-1688
**pro hac vice forthcoming*

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CIVIL DIVISION
CLERK OF COURT
ALLEGHENY COUNTY
PITTSBURGH, PA

AFFIDAVIT OF [REDACTED] PORTER, [REDACTED] a/k/a CHAUNTEY MO'NIQUE PORTER

Before me, the undersigned authority, personally appeared [REDACTED] Porter, [REDACTED], a/k/a Chauntey Mo'Nique Porter, who being duly sworn and of sound mind, states as follows:

1. My given name is [REDACTED] Porter, [REDACTED] although I am known as and identify as Chauntey Mo'Nique Porter.

2. I submit this affidavit in support of the petition for a name change.

3. I am over 18 years old and a resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

4. I strongly object to my given name. It is not the name by which I am known in the community nor how I express my identity.

5. I am a 41-year-old Black transgender woman who uses female pronouns.

6. I am currently unemployed. I previously worked at Central Outreach Wellness Center, a holistic multicultural, LGBTQIA, and HIV & Hepatitis C health organization in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, which I left in July 2020.

7. I am also the Vice President of Trans YOUning, a mutual aid nonprofit that provides resources to Pittsburgh's transgender community, and The Love Diamond Project, a nonprofit organization that caters to the needs of all LGBTQIA individuals and those who live with HIV.

8. Over a decade ago, in 2008, I was convicted of aggravated assault. Since then, I have tried hard to rebuild my life, help others, and only make a positive difference in my community.

9. I openly talk about my experience as an incarcerated woman of color with LGBTQIA youth, through my community advocacy and prior work with the Wellness Center.

10. I want to change my name under Pennsylvania law because I want a name that matches my gender expression and identity. Also, Chauntey Mo'Nique Porter is simply who I am.

11. The name currently on my government-issued ID card does not match my gender expression or identity.

12. As a result, I have endured abuse, harassment, and humiliation from police, employers, co-workers, and other service providers, such as bank employees.

13. Some people assume that, since I have not changed my name, I am not a transgender woman at all, but instead a man who is pretending to be a woman.

14. Other times, when I present my government-issued ID, people assume that I am presenting a stolen or false ID.

15. As recently as March 2021, while attending a club with friends, a bouncer viewed my government-issued ID and announced "That's a dude!" to surrounding patrons. I have repeatedly experienced similar harassment in my past.

16. In addition, as recently as 2017, I was told by doctors that I do not qualify for gender confirmation surgery because I am not "living as a woman" with my undesired, legally-imposed name. In October 2020, I received gender confirmation surgery. It is very frustrating to have had gender confirmation surgery but still not be able to obtain a court-ordered name change.

17. In 2020, a friend of mine who is a Black transgender woman died under suspicious circumstances in Pittsburgh.

18. I recently became engaged but do not want to get married until I can change my name because I do not want to see my given name on my marriage certificate. As much I want to marry the one I love, I've told my fiance that I cannot bear to walk down the aisle until I have been able to change my name officially.

19. The mismatch between my gender expression and identity and the name on my government-issued ID adds to my fear of being abused or subject to violence because I am a transgender woman.

20. The constant need to identify myself with an unwanted name that does not match my gender expression and identity hurts my emotional wellbeing. It depresses me to have to see and hear that name so often still today, and I'm always at least a little scared about how people who hear that name will respond.

I, [REDACTED] Porter, [REDACTED] a/k/a Chaunty Mo'Nique Porter, being duly sworn according to law, depose and say that the facts above set forth are true and correct to the best of my

knowledge, information and belief and I expect to be able to prove the same at any hearing hereof.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT



Porter, Jr., a/k/a Chauntey Monique Porter

Subscribed and sworn to me,
a Notary Public, this 11 day of February, 2021.
My Commission Expires:



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania • Notary Seal
Helene Czamecki, Notary Public
Allegheny County
My commission expires March 8, 2024
Commission number 1034227
Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries