

How Can I Change My Last Name On A Delta Air Lines Ticket?

Direct answer: You can, provided it is still your ticket. Delta Air Lines handles this as a **name correction** — fixing a misspelled surname, reversed first and last names, a missing middle name, or updating a legal surname after marriage, divorce or a court order. The traveller must remain the same person, and the date of birth and gender on the record stay unchanged. What Delta does not allow is transferring a ticket to a different individual; tickets are non-transferable. Corrections are handled by an agent rather than self-service. Call **1-888-374-4490 [US] (OTA)** with your confirmation number, the name exactly as ticketed, and the correct legal name.

Use the phrase **name correction** when you ask. "Name change" means something specific and prohibited in airline terminology — swapping the passenger — and asking for that will get you a flat refusal to a question you did not mean to pose.

Correction versus change

	Name correction	Name change
Meaning	Making the record match the same traveller's government ID	Substituting a different traveller
Examples	Thompson to Thomson; reversed first and last names; Miller to Miller-Okafor after marriage	Giving your ticket to a friend
Permitted on Delta	Yes	No
Documents needed	Photo ID, plus legal documents for a surname change	N/A
Typical cost	Often no fee for minor corrections	N/A

The prohibition on transfers is not discretionary. It ties to the TSA Secure Flight programme, which requires the passenger name in the reservation to match the government-issued identification presented at the airport. No agent can override it.

What Delta will correct

Minor corrections, usually processed without a fee:

- Misspellings in the first or last name, typically a few characters
- First and last names entered in the wrong order
- Missing or incorrect middle name or initial
- A missing second surname
- Incorrect title

Legal corrections, requiring documentation:

- Surname change after marriage
- Reversion to a maiden name after divorce
- Court-ordered or deed-poll name change

Not permitted:

- Substituting a different passenger
- Changing the date of birth
- Changing the gender marker
- Corrections after check-in is complete

That final deadline is the one people discover too late. Once you have checked in, the record is locked for name purposes. If you spot an error at the airport, raise it at the ticket counter **before** checking in.

What to have ready

Assemble this before contacting anyone and the call takes minutes.

- **Confirmation number** — the six-character code from your booking email
- **The name exactly as it appears on the ticket**, character for character
- **The correct legal name exactly as printed on the ID you will travel with**
- **Government photo identification** in the correct name
- **Supporting legal document** where relevant:
 - Marriage certificate
 - Divorce decree
 - Court order
- **Original booking confirmation**, especially if a third party made the reservation

The rule that governs everything: the ticket must match the identification you will **physically hand over at the airport**, not the identification you plan to obtain. If you married last month and your passport still reads your maiden name, and you fly internationally next week, leave the ticket alone and travel on the passport name. Changing the ticket to a name your document does not show creates precisely the mismatch these rules exist to prevent.

The process

1. Check immediately

Compare the ticket against your identification the moment the confirmation arrives. Within 24 hours of booking is the ideal window, because U.S. rules allow cancellation and refund on qualifying tickets purchased at least seven days before departure — so if a correction proves awkward, you can simply cancel and rebook correctly.

2. Work out who holds the ticket

- **Booked direct with Delta** — contact Delta or a reservations line that can service the ticket
- **Booked through a travel agency or online travel site** — the correction generally has to originate with whoever issued the ticket, because they hold the record. Delta may decline to modify a ticket it did not issue
- **Booked through a corporate travel programme** — go via your travel manager

The ticket number identifies the issuer, and the agency name appears on the confirmation.

3. Make the request clearly

Call **1-888-374-4490 [US] (OTA)** and open with the specific request: *"I need a name correction on a ticketed Delta reservation — the surname is misspelled,"* or *"I have legally changed my surname and need the ticket to match my identification."* Give the confirmation number, then both spellings, slowly.

4. Provide documentation

For a legal change, have a clear scan or photograph of the marriage certificate, divorce decree or court order ready to send.

5. Insist on written confirmation

Do not accept a verbal assurance. Ask for a **reissued confirmation email** showing the corrected name, and read it when it arrives. A correction noted in the record but never actually applied to the ticket is the classic failure — it surfaces at the airport, at the worst possible moment.

6. Check every segment

If your itinerary includes SkyTeam partners or codeshare flights, confirm the corrected name has carried across to those segments. It does not always propagate automatically.

Costs

Delta does not publish a flat name-correction fee, and straightforward corrections are commonly processed without charge, particularly when caught early on a Delta-issued ticket.

Where costs can arise:

- **Reissue on a restricted fare.** If the correction requires reissuing the ticket and the original fare has expired, a fare difference may apply.

- **Agency service fees** on tickets issued by a travel agency.
- **Partner airline involvement.** Itineraries with other carriers follow more complex rules and are less likely to be free.
- **Basic Economy.** Delta's most restricted fare, with the least flexibility. Corrections may be limited, and cancelling within 24 hours and rebooking is sometimes the cleaner route.

Ask about cost explicitly before authorising anything.

Timing

Within 24 hours of booking. Best position. The 24-hour cancellation rule gives you a clean fallback.

Well before travel. Routine and usually straightforward.

A few days out. Tighter — reissue may be needed and inventory may have moved.

At the airport, before check-in. Possible for a genuine typo. Arrive very early and go to the ticket counter, not the bag drop.

After check-in. Too late in the system.

The habit that prevents nearly all of this: read the confirmation the moment it lands. A typo caught in the first hour is nothing. The same typo caught the night before an international departure can be genuinely serious.

Does a small typo matter?

Sometimes not — but you cannot plan around that.

TSA's Secure Flight programme tolerates minor discrepancies, and a single transposed letter frequently passes without comment on a domestic flight. Delta will still correct it, and you should let them.

For **international travel, treat exactness as mandatory.** Foreign immigration systems and airline departure control are far less forgiving, and an airline can deny boarding rather than risk a fine for carrying a passenger whose documents do not match. A mismatch found at an international check-in desk is not something goodwill resolves.

Practical test: if the boarding pass name would not obviously read as the same person as the passport, fix it.

What happens to SkyMiles and Medallion status

A name change on a ticket and a name change on a SkyMiles account are two separate jobs, and completing one does not complete the other.

Update the SkyMiles profile separately. If your legal surname changes, the name on your SkyMiles account should be updated to match your identification. Delta requires supporting

documentation for this — the same marriage certificate, divorce decree or court order used for the ticket.

Miles and Medallion status are not affected. Changing your name does not reset your balance, your Medallion tier or your Million Miler standing. The account continues under a new name with everything intact. There is no need to open a new account, and doing so would split your balance across two profiles.

Mismatch causes credit failures. If the ticket is issued in your new name but the SkyMiles number attached belongs to a profile in your old name, the flight may not credit automatically. This is recoverable after the fact through a retroactive credit request, but it is easier to align the two before you fly.

Known Traveler Number and Global Entry. These are tied to your identification, not to Delta. Update them with the Transportation Security Administration and U.S. Customs and Border Protection respectively, then update the stored number in your SkyMiles profile. A stale KTN in the profile is one of the more common reasons PreCheck stops appearing on boarding passes after a name change.

Passport details. For international itineraries, the passport information stored in your profile and entered at booking must match the new name as well. Update the profile once and it populates future bookings.

Timing: how far ahead to sort this out

The practical sequence matters more than most travellers expect.

If you are booking travel that falls **before** your identification is updated, book in your current legal name as it appears on your existing ID. There is no benefit to booking in a name you cannot yet prove, and correcting it later costs time and possibly money.

If your identification will be updated **before** travel, either book in the new name from the start or plan to submit the correction with documentation well in advance. Do not leave it to the airport.

Allow a working week for the request to be processed and the ticket reissued, and longer during peak periods. For international travel, allow more, because the reissued ticket also has to carry correct passport data.

The one deadline that is genuinely hard: the name on the boarding pass must match the identification you present at the security checkpoint. Everything else is negotiable in some form. That is not.

Where to get help

Contact	Number	Best for
Travel reservations and ticket servicing	1-888-374-4490 [US] (OTA)	Name corrections on ticketed reservations, checking whether a fare allows a correction, reissue questions, urgent pre-departure fixes
Delta Reservations	Published on delta.com	Direct servicing of Delta-issued tickets and SkyMiles accounts
Original travel agency or booking site	On your confirmation	Corrections to tickets they issued
Airport ticket counter	In person	Same-day corrections before check-in

Frequently asked questions

Can I change my last name on a Delta ticket after getting married? Yes, as a name correction with a marriage certificate — provided you will travel on identification showing the new surname. If your passport still shows the maiden name, keep the ticket as it is.

Does Delta charge for a name correction? No published flat fee, and minor corrections are frequently free. A reissue can trigger a fare difference, and agency-issued tickets may carry the agency's own charge.

Can I give my Delta ticket to someone else? No. Delta tickets are non-transferable.

Can I correct a name on a Basic Economy ticket? Options are most limited on this fare. Acting very soon after booking gives the best chance; otherwise cancelling within 24 hours and rebooking may be simpler.

Can I fix my name online? Name corrections are not a self-service function on Delta. They require an agent.

What if my middle name is missing? Generally not an issue domestically, and it can be added as a minor correction.

Can I change my date of birth or gender on the booking? No. These are Secure Flight data points and cannot be altered through a name correction.

How long does a correction take? A simple typo is often resolved in a single call. A legal change with documentation can take longer, so do not leave it to the night before.

The takeaway

A misspelled or outdated surname on a Delta ticket is fixable, and in most cases fixable at no cost — as long as it is still the same traveller and you act before check-in. Say *name correction*, have the

confirmation number and both spellings in front of you, bring the marriage certificate or court order if the change is legal, and do not hang up without a reissued confirmation.

The single rule that resolves every borderline case: the ticket must match the document you will physically present at the airport. Work backwards from that and the right answer is obvious.

For a correction on a ticketed reservation, especially one close to departure, **1-888-374-4490 [US] (OTA)** can review the fare rules and process the reissue.