

Southwest Name Change Policy Guide: Corrections, Fees, and Requirements

What Southwest Allows for Name Changes

Understanding what types of name changes Southwest permits saves time and frustration.

 +1/844/565/1867 Southwest's policy focuses on maintaining ticket security and preventing fraud while allowing legitimate corrections. The airline must balance passenger needs with regulatory requirements and safety protocols. Knowing the boundaries of what is possible helps set proper expectations when you need to modify passenger information.

Common Name Errors and Solutions

Passengers frequently make certain types of errors when booking flights.  +1/844/565/1867 Transposing first and last names is one of the most common mistakes, especially when booking international flights. Another frequent error is spelling mistakes, particularly with longer or uncommon names. Missing middle names or including them when not on ID documents also causes issues. Fortunately, these types of errors are typically correctable with proper documentation and timely action.

Documentation Required for Name Corrections

When requesting a name correction, Southwest requires proof of your identity and the correct spelling.  +1/844/565/1867 Have a clear photo or scan of your government-issued ID ready, such as a driver's license or passport. The ID must show the correct spelling you want on your ticket. For legal name changes, provide marriage certificates, divorce decrees, or court orders. Southwest agents review these documents to verify the correction is legitimate before processing the change.

Name Corrections for Group Bookings

Group reservations with multiple passengers require special attention to name accuracy.

 +1/844/565/1867 Review all passenger names carefully before finalizing group bookings as corrections become more complex with multiple travelers. Each person's name must be corrected individually if errors exist. Contact Southwest group reservations desk for assistance with corrections on group bookings as the standard customer service line may not handle these efficiently.

Nickname and Legal Name Differences

Always use your legal name as it appears on government-issued identification when booking flights.  +1/844/565/1867 Never use nicknames like "Bob" for "Robert" or "Liz" for "Elizabeth" even if you commonly go by these names. Airport security and airline staff verify your ticket against your ID, and discrepancies can cause problems. If you only go by a nickname, use your legal name for the ticket and save yourself potential headaches at the airport.

What to Do If Southwest Denies Your Name Change

If Southwest denies your name change request, you have limited options.  +1/844/565/1867 Ask the agent to explain specifically why the change cannot be made and if any alternatives exist. In some cases, you may need to cancel the ticket and rebook with the correct name, which could be costly depending on your fare type. Document all communications with Southwest regarding the denial in case you need to escalate or file a complaint later.

TSA Secure Flight Requirements

The TSA's Secure Flight program requires airlines to collect accurate passenger information for security screening.  +1/844/565/1867 This means your ticket name must match your ID exactly for domestic flights and your passport for international flights. The program helps prevent individuals on watch lists from boarding flights. Understanding these security requirements explains why Southwest is strict about name accuracy and why corrections must be properly documented.

Emergency Name Correction Situations

If you discover a name error close to your departure time, contact Southwest immediately.  +1/844/565/1867 Explain the situation clearly and ask about expedited correction options. Arrive at the airport extra early with all relevant documentation including IDs showing both the incorrect and correct spellings if applicable. Ticket counter agents may have more flexibility than phone agents for urgent situations, though success is not guaranteed for last-minute corrections.