

Address Change FAQ

The California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN) is an advisory body to the U.S. Bureau of Geographic Names (BGN). In addition, CACGN also supports oversight of state-mandated name changes (e.g. [Assembly Bill 2022](#)).

Assembly Bill 2022 (Chapter 479, Statutes of 2022) declares the term “squaw” (hereafter referred to as “sq_”) to be offensive and derogatory and directs all public agencies to remove the term from California geographic features and place names. While it is a requirement for public agencies to remove and rename all “sq_” places and features, Assembly Bill 2022 does not require private entities (e.g., businesses) to make name changes. However, CACGN strongly recommends that any members of the public affected by a federal, state, or locally mandated name change update their address to avoid confusion and potential delays in service.

This document is intended to provide guidance on how to notify various entities of an address change and how to update your address. As some address change requirements are more time-sensitive than others, California residents and business are encouraged to update their contact information with an address change as soon as feasible. Please note that address changes typically fall under the management of municipal governments. It is recommended to contact your city or county office for specific questions.

[The United States Postal Service \(USPS\)](#)

To ensure that all mail is delivered to the correct address, residents can either file for a [change-of-address](#) for an individual, family, or business or request an address addition until such time as the old address is phased out. The change-of-address service costs a one-time fee of \$1.10, and the change-of-address form also allows residents to update their voter registration with their new address. In some cases, it may take some time before signs and maps are officially updated after place or feature name changes, in which case, an individual may request an “address addition” in writing by contacting their local Post Office Postmaster or District Manager. An address addition allows for the Post Office to include more than one acceptable address at which to deliver mail until such time as the Post Office determines the old address is no longer valid (anywhere from several months to several years).

For more information, please visit the [USPS Change of Address page](#). To contact USPS, please visit their [inquiry page](#) or call them at 1-800-275-8777.

[California Department of Motor Vehicles \(DMV\)](#)

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) issues [drivers' licenses](#), [vehicle registrations](#), and real ID's, among other identification documents. Home addresses filed with the DMV are also used to indicate an individual's voting registration. Thus, when your address changes, you will need to notify

the DMV. When filling out the [change of address form](#), residents can also update their car registration and voter registration with their new address.

Please note that residents with a Disabled Parking (DP) Placard or Plate must update their address for their DP placard using a [Change of Address \(DMV 14\) Form](#).

To contact the DMV, please visit their [Contact Us page](#) to fill out a feedback survey or visit a service advisor. You can also call the DMV at 1-800-777-0133 or 1-800-368-4327 (TTY).

[California Secretary of State \(SOS\)](#)

The Secretary of State's Election Division oversees all federal and state elections within California and is responsible for maintaining a statewide database of all registered voters. If your address has changed, you will need to update your address on file with the State and local voter registration offices. For local voter registrations, please contact your respective local governmental entity(ies). For statewide voter registration, you may update your address online or using a mail-in voter registration. Please see the [SOS's website](#) for additional voter registration and address change instructions. Note, while the address connected to your voter registration may be updated if or when you update any DMV documents, we encourage you to also reach out to the state and your local voter registration offices to ensure the correct address is on file.

[Internal Revenue Service \(IRS\)](#)

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) administers and enforces U.S. federal tax laws, which requires an up-to-date address on file. There are [several ways](#) to change your address with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Residents can 1) fill out a change of address form, 2) use their new address when they file for a tax return, 3) send a signed written statement to the IRS, or 4) provide oral notification in person or by telephone at 800-829-1040.

To [contact the IRS](#), you can visit the [IRS Online Tools and Resources page](#). You can also use the [Taxpayer Assistance Center Office Locator](#) to find a local office and call 844-545-5640 to schedule an appointment. You can also call 800-829-1040 or 800-829-4059 (TTY) for online support.

[Social Security Administration \(SSA\)](#)

Residents receiving benefits (such as retirement, disability, Medicare, survivor benefits, and Supplemental Security Income) from the federal Social Security Administration (SSA) must update their address in the event of a move or address change. Residents can log into their [Social Security Account](#) to update their address.

For more information, please visit the SSA's [Contact Information page](#) and [FAQ](#) page. Individuals can also email the SSA by filling out an [online form](#) or call 1-800-772-1213 or 1-800-325-0778 (TTY)

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

All noncitizens in the United States must report a change of address to USCIS within 10 days of moving (except A and G visa holders and visa waiver visitors). Residents can change their address with USCIS through their [online account](#) or by filing a paper AR-11, Alien's Change of Address Card. USCIS strongly encourages U.S. citizens and nationals to update their address with USCIS if they have a pending case. For more details on how to change your address with the USCIS, please visit the [USCIS webpage on address changes](#).

To contact USCIS, please visit their [Contact Center](#), where you can access online tools, live assistance, and in-person appointments.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

It is important to notify the VA of a change of address as soon as possible to avoid interruption of benefits or services. Recipients of VA benefits can update their address in their Va.gov profile or by phone at 800-698-2411. Residents can also send a signed and dated address request change to

Department of Veterans Affairs
Regional Office and Insurance Center
PO Box 7208
Philadelphia, PA 19101

Some departments at the VA keep contact information in separate records. Residents receiving education benefits, home loan benefits, benefits through the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA), benefits through the Foreign Medical Program, and life insurance benefits will have to contact the appropriate department directly. For more information on how to update your address with the VA, please visit the [VA webpage on address changes](#).

For additional assistance, please visit the [VA Contact Us page](#).

California Department of Social Services (CDSS)

The CDSS provides critical services and aid to vulnerable residents throughout California. Address changes must be submitted within 30 days by phone (916)-653-9300, by email to AdminCertInfo@dss.ca.gov, or by mail to

CDSS - ACS
744 P Street, MS 9-15-807
Sacramento, CA 95814

Additional information regarding CDSS's address change process may be found on their [website](#). For additional inquiries, you can email CDSS at piar@dss.ca.gov. You can also visit their [Contact Your County](#) page to find contact information for your local social service agency.

Covered California and Medi-Cal Benefits

People with Medi-Cal must report changes to their [local county office](#) within 10 days of the change. If you have health insurance through Covered California, you must report changes within 30 days. To report changes, call Covered California at [\(800\) 300-1506](#) or log in to your [online account](#). You can also [find a Licensed Insurance Agent, Certified Enrollment Counselor or county eligibility worker](#) who can provide free assistance in your area.

Updating hunting and fishing licenses and permits

Residents with a hunting or fishing license or permit through the [California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) (CDFW) can update their address through their [customer profile](#).

For additional support, please visit the [Contact CDFW](#) page or call 916-445-0411.

California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control

Businesses with a license from the California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control should report any mailing address changes to the District Office. More information can be found on the California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control [website](#).

Home Services

Residents should make a list of all the home services they use and update their address for each service. Some common examples include:

- Electricity and gas
- Water and sewage services
- Trash and recycling services
- Internet, phone, and cable providers
- Home or renter's insurance
- Car insurance
- Life insurance
- Home rental services, such as water tank and furnace rentals
- Home security systems

Other

Other common services that may require notification of an address change include:

- Financial institutions and service providers
- Loan providers
- Employers
- Medical clinics and hospitals
- Occupational licensing entities
- Other permit licensing entities
- Business associations
- Clubs and organizations
- Dentists
- Online shopping sites
- Subscription services
- Schools
- Unions
- Employers
- Friends and family