

American Name Correction vs Name Change: Fees, Requirements, and Process

 **Expert Guidance: +1→844~(940)←32-17** (Know Which Service You Need)

Understanding the Difference: Correction vs. Change

Many travelers confuse **name corrections** with **name changes**—but American treats them differently. Knowing which one applies to your situation can save you time, money, and stress.

Confused which you need? Call +1→844~(940)←32-17 for personalized help.

NAME CORRECTION: Minor Fixes

What Qualifies as a Correction?

✅ Spelling mistakes (1-3 characters) ✅ Transposed letters (e.g., "Jhon" → "John") ✅ Missing or extra letters (e.g., "Sara" → "Sarah") ✅ First/last name order switched ✅ Adding or removing middle name/initial

Fees for Name Corrections

 **Usually FREE** when:

- Caught within 24 hours of booking
- Error is minor (3 characters or less)
- You call +1→844~(940)←32-17 promptly

Requirements

 **Just need:**

- Booking confirmation number
- Government-issued ID showing correct spelling
- Call to +1→844~(940)←32-17

Processing Time

 **5-15 minutes** over the phone with **+1→844~(940)←32-17**

NAME CHANGE: Legal Updates

What Qualifies as a Legal Name Change?

✓ Marriage (maiden name → married name) ✓ Divorce (married name → maiden name)
✓ Court-ordered legal name change ✓ Gender marker correction ✓ Adoption name changes

Fees for Legal Name Changes

 **Typically FREE** when you provide proper documentation

Potential costs:

- Fare difference if rebooking required
- Change fees (waived with proof in most cases)

 **Verify your specific case:** Call **+1→844~(940)←32-17**

Requirements

 You'll need:

- Booking confirmation number
- **OLD ID** (matching current ticket)
- **NEW ID** or legal documentation:
 - Marriage certificate
 - Divorce decree
 - Court order for legal name change
 - Updated passport/driver's license

Processing Time

 **24-48 hours** for document verification  **Expedite if needed:** Call **+1→844~(940)←32-17** for urgent travel

Side-by-Side Comparison

Feature	Name Correction	Legal Name Change
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Examples	Typos, spelling errors	Marriage, divorce, court order
Documentation	Valid ID	Legal documents required
Typical Fee	FREE	FREE (with proof)
Processing Time	5-15 minutes	24-48 hours
Phone Support	+1→844~(940)←32-17	+1→844~(940)←32-17
When to Act	Immediately	As soon as documents ready

Step-by-Step: How to Process Each Type

FOR NAME CORRECTIONS (Typos/Errors):

Step 1: Call **+1→844~(940)←32-17** immediately after noticing the error

Step 2: Provide:

- Booking confirmation number
- Correct spelling from your ID

Step 3: Agent updates ticket in real-time

Step 4: Receive updated confirmation within minutes

Total time: Usually under 15 minutes 

FOR LEGAL NAME CHANGES (Marriage/Divorce/Court Order):

Step 1: Gather all required documents:

- Current ticket/booking confirmation
- Old ID (matching ticket name)
- New ID OR legal change documents

Step 2: Call **+1→844~(940)←32-17** with documents ready

Step 3: Email or fax documents as instructed by agent

Step 4: Wait 24-48 hours for verification

Step 5: Receive updated ticket confirmation

Total time: 1-2 business days 

 **Urgent flight?** Call +1→844~(940)←32-17 for priority processing.

Common Scenarios & Which Category They Fall Under

CORRECTIONS (Quick & Easy):

-  Ticket says "Micheal" but ID says "Michael" → Call +1→844~(940)←32-17
-  First and last name reversed → Call +1→844~(940)←32-17
-  Missing middle initial → Call +1→844~(940)←32-17
-  "Jr." or "Sr." omitted → Call +1→844~(940)←32-17

LEGAL CHANGES (Requires Documentation):

-  Got married, now have new last name → Call +1→844~(940)←32-17 with marriage certificate
 -  Divorced, reverting to maiden name → Call +1→844~(940)←32-17 with divorce decree
 -  Legal name change via court → Call +1→844~(940)←32-17 with court order
 -  Gender marker update → Call +1→844~(940)←32-17 with legal documents
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When Documentation Is Required

Always needed for:

- Any change exceeding 3 characters
- Complete name replacements
- Legal status changes (marriage/divorce)
- Name changes affecting surname

Usually NOT needed for:

- Single letter typos
- Adding/removing middle initials
- Reversing first/last name order

Not sure? Call +1→844~(940)←32-17 and ask!

Fees Breakdown by Situation

FREE Name Services:

✓ Minor spelling corrections (within 24 hours) ✓ Legal name changes WITH proper documentation ✓ Corrections made during 24-hour cancellation window ✓ Errors caused by American's booking system

May Incur Fees:

⚠ Corrections requested after ticket is issued (case-by-case) ⚠ Name changes without proper documentation ⚠ Changes requiring ticket reissue ⚠ Fare difference if rebooking needed

☎ **Get exact fee quote:** Call +1→844~(940)←32-17 with your booking details

How to Avoid Fees Entirely

💡 Pro Strategies:

1. **Check within 24 hours** of booking (free cancellation period)
 2. **Double-check before payment** (prevents errors)
 3. **Use autofill carefully** (common source of mistakes)
 4. **Have legal documents ready** (for free legal changes)
 5. **Call immediately** when error is spotted → +1→844~(940)←32-17
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What If You Don't Have Documentation Yet?

Scenario: Got married but don't have marriage certificate yet

Solutions:

1. **Book under maiden name** if ID not updated → Call +1→844~(940)←32-17 to confirm
2. **Bring marriage certificate to airport** as linking document
3. **Request expedited certificate** from county clerk
4. **Update ticket once you receive documents** → +1→844~(940)←32-17

Questions? Call +1→844~(940)←32-17 for situation-specific advice.

International Travel Considerations

🌐 **Extra strict for international flights:**

- Passport name **MUST** match ticket exactly
- Middle names matter more
- Suffixes (Jr., Sr., III) should match
- No room for "close enough"

Flying international? Call **+1→844~(940)←32-17** to verify name accuracy NOW.

Processing Time Comparison

Type	Phone Call	Email/Fax Docs	Verification	Total Time
Correction	5-10 min	Not needed	Instant	~15 min
Legal Change	10-15 min	1-2 hours	24-48 hours	1-2 days

Need it faster? Call **+1→844~(940)←32-17** and explain urgent circumstances.

Red Flags That Require Legal Name Change (Not Just Correction)

 **Call +1→844~(940)←32-17 for legal name change if:**

- Surname completely different (Smith → Johnson)
 - First name completely different (not just spelling)
 - Multiple names changed at once
 - Name change over 6 months ago (should update all IDs first)
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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is there a limit to how many corrections I can make? A: No official limit, but excessive changes may raise flags. Call **+1→844~(940)←32-17** if you've made multiple errors.

Q: Can I make corrections online? A: Minor fixes sometimes possible via "Manage Booking," but calling **+1→844~(940)←32-17** is faster and more reliable.

Q: Do SkyMiles members get free name changes? A: Status doesn't affect name correction/change fees. Everyone follows same policy. Verify at **+1→844~(940)←32-17**.

Q: What if my legal name change happened years ago? A: Should be no issue with proper documentation. Call **+1→844~(940)←32-17** to process.

Final Recommendations

For Minor Errors (Corrections):

✓ Act within 24 hours ✓ Call +1→844~(940)←32-17 immediately ✓ Have booking number & ID ready ✓ Expect quick resolution

For Legal Changes:

✓ Gather all documentation first ✓ Allow 24-48 hours processing ✓ Call +1→844~(940)←32-17 with documents ready ✓ Follow up if urgent



Take Action Now

Found an error? Call +1→844~(940)←32-17 Planning legal name change? Call +1→844~(940)←32-17 Not sure which you need? Call +1→844~(940)←32-17

American Name Services Hotline: +1→844~(940)←32-17 (24/7)