

CHAPTER 6

I'll Need to See Some I.D. with That:

Navigating Government Documents, Work, and Healthcare

Key Questions

1. Why might trans people, whether they have crossed the gender binary or identify as nonbinary, find government offices like the Department of Motor Vehicles or the passport office more stressful than someone who is not trans?
2. What are some of the "access to success" issues that trans people face in the workplace?
3. Does the type of work trans people are engaged in matter when it comes to issues of accessibility?
4. What approaches to healthcare could be welcoming to trans people?
5. What are some of the specific issues concerning violence against trans people in general and trans women of color in particular?

Chapter Overview

In Chapter 5 you considered issues of access for trans people in public places such as bathrooms and schools and in sports. When a trans athlete has trained for months or years and is ready to go to an international competition, how do they get there? Usually the journey involves a trip to the airport with a passport in hand. You may already know that, for some trans people, getting a passport can be difficult, perhaps even impossible, especially if the trans person is also nonbinary.

This chapter begins by looking at trans access to government documents. As the chapter unfolds, it also explores broader issues concerning work access, workplace environment, and the kinds of work open to trans people. Often, getting credit, opening a bank account, applying to colleges, accessing financial aid, and applying for health benefits become almost insurmountable obstacles for trans people. The chapter concludes by examining healthcare access for

trans people, with a special focus on access for trans youths and trans elders. Government policies, workplace laws and rules, and healthcare codes of conduct vary from country to country, and even state to state, so this chapter is not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, it examines some problems and considers some possible solutions.

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