

KLM Name Change Policy: What You Can and Can't Fix on Your Ticket

You can check details and manage your booking Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX through the KLM Manage Booking Portal to request minor typo corrections.

Name Correction Rules

- **No full ticket transfers:** KLM does not allow Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX you can change the name on a ticket to give it to a completely different person.

Booked a KLM flight with a name typo Call +1 888 794 3460 US or need to update it after marriage? Here's what KLM's official Conditions of Carriage actually allow, Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX what counts as a correction versus a transfer, and how to fix it the right way.

Introduction

A misspelled name on a plane ticket sounds like Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK a minor thing, right up until you're standing at check-in and the agent tells you it doesn't match your passport. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX KLM, like every major airline operating in and out of the United States and Europe, is bound by strict identity-matching rules, Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK and it treats "fixing a typo" very differently from "changing who's flying." Understanding that distinction before you touch your booking can save you from a denied boarding, Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK an unnecessary new ticket purchase, or a stressful scramble at the airport. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX This article breaks down what KLM's own conditions actually say about name changes, why the rule exists in the first place, Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK and what your realistic options are depending on what kind of correction you need.

Quick Search: The Short Answer

If you just need to fix a typo, Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK a swapped first and last name, or a missing middle name, Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK that's generally treated as a correction, not a name change, and it's usually straightforward to resolve through KLM directly. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX If you need to update your name because of marriage,

divorce, or a legal name change, KLM can generally accommodate that too, Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK provided you can show the identification and legal documents that support the update. What KLM will not do, under any circumstances, Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK is let you swap the ticket over to a completely different person, Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK because a ticket is legally tied to the individual passenger named on it, not transferable to someone else. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX The earlier you catch and fix a name mismatch, the smoother the process, since airport check-in staff have far less Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK flexibility than the airline's own booking channels do in advance of travel.

Why Airlines Are So Strict About Names in the First Place

This isn't a KLM quirk; it comes from post-9/11 Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK aviation security requirements enforced through the U.S. Transportation Security Administration's Secure Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK Flight program, which applies to any flight touching U.S. airspace, including many KLM routes. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX Airlines must collect a passenger's full name, date of birth, and gender and match that information against government watch lists before a boarding pass can be issued. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK Your full name must appear on your ticket exactly as it's shown on your passport, including your first name, any middle names, and your last name. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX This is why even a seemingly harmless nickname or a missing middle initial can, in stricter cases, create friction at security, Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK and it's why airlines like KLM build formal correction procedures into their conditions of carriage rather than leaving it to individual agents to sort out on the spot. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK

What KLM 's Own Conditions of Carriage Actually Say

KLM 's General Conditions of Carriage are unambiguous about who is allowed to use a ticket. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX The carriage service is only provided to the passenger named on the ticket, Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK and KLM reserves the right to check identity documents at any point during the journey. Even more directly, the conditions state that a ticket Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK may not be transferred, and if someone other than the named passenger tries to use it and KLM unknowingly carries or refunds that person, Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK the airline has no further obligation or liability toward the actual ticketed passenger. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX This is the legal backbone of why "just put my friend's name on my ticket instead" is never an option, no matter how minor the reason for wanting to switch. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK The same document makes clear that KLM can refuse boarding entirely to a passenger who isn't able to prove they are the person named in Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK the "Passenger name" field on the ticket.

Correction vs. Change: The Distinction That Matters

The practical way to think about this is Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK that a correction fixes an error in how your existing identity was entered, Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK while a change would replace who the passenger actually is, and only the first one is realistically achievable after booking. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX A typo like an extra letter, a missing middle name, reversed name order, or a title mismatch (Mr. instead of Ms., for example) Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK generally falls into the correction category, since it doesn't change the underlying fact of who you are. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK A legal name change resulting from marriage, divorce, or a court order sits in a slightly different bucket Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK procedurally, since KLM will typically want to see documentation such as a marriage certificate, divorce decree, or legal name change order before updating the name in its system, Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK but it is still fundamentally about the same person continuing to travel under an updated legal identity. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX What KLM's conditions of carriage make clear is that neither of these situations Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK is the same as transferring a ticket to a new person, and airline staff will treat them very differently. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK

What Happens If the Name Discrepancy Isn't Fixed Before Travel

If a name mismatch goes uncorrected and you Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK show up at the airport unable to prove you're the person named on the ticket, Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK KLM's conditions allow the airline to refuse to carry you, and in more serious cases, to cancel the ticket outright without an automatic refund. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX This is a meaningfully worse outcome than fixing the issue in advance, since the same conditions of carriage also Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK states that KLM has the right to refuse a refund specifically in cases tied to identity or documentation problems. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK There's also a fare-related wrinkle worth knowing about: if you were traveling on a discounted fare that required specific supporting documentation Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK and you can't produce it, or if it turns out your name and documents don't line up with what the fare required, KLM can charge you Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK the difference up to the correct fare or deny you boarding altogether. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX None of this is designed to be punitive toward genuine typos, but it does mean the burden is on Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK the traveler to catch and resolve the mismatch before departure day, not after.

How to Actually Get a Name Corrected

The most reliable path is to catch the error as soon as possible. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK as your booking confirmation arrives and review it against your passport or government ID immediately, since airlines generally have far more flexibility to make corrections well before departure than they do in the final hours before a flight. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX Corrections are typically handled through KLM's own official channels, whether that's the manage-my-booking tool on KLM.com, Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK the KLM app, or KLM customer service directly, rather than through a third-party travel agent site if your ticket was booked independently. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK If your correction involves a legal name change, have your supporting documentation ready in digital or physical form before you start the process, Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK since KLM will need to verify the change is legitimate rather than an attempt to reassign the ticket to someone else. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX If your flight involves a codeshare or partner airline, Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK it's worth confirming directly with KLM whether the correction needs extra lead time, since multi-carrier itineraries can require more coordination between systems than a ticket flown entirely on KLM metal.

What Definitely Won't Work

It's worth being direct about the limits here so you don't waste time or money. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX You cannot use a "name correction" request as a workaround to put a different traveler's name on a ticket you already purchased; Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK KLM's non-transferability rule exists precisely to prevent that, and it's enforced at the identity-check level regardless of how the request is framed. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK You also generally can't wait until you're at the check-in counter with a significant name mismatch and expect it to be resolved on the spot, since gate and check-in staff have limited authority compared to what can be corrected through official booking channels in advance. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX Finally, keep in mind that KLM's own conditions note that misuse of a ticket, including situations where it becomes evident the passenger named on the ticket never intended to actually travel, can result in a denied refund, so attempts to game the correction process can backfire financially as well as logistically. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I change the name on a KLM ticket to a different person entirely?

No. KLM tickets are non-transferable under the airline's Conditions of Carriage, and the carriage service is only provided to the person

named on the original ticket. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX

What counts as a minor correction versus a legal name change?

A minor correction covers things like typos, Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK reversed first and last names, or a missing middle name, where the underlying passenger is unchanged. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX A legal name change, such as one from marriage or divorce, still refers to the same individual but usually requires Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK supporting legal documentation to update.

What happens if I don't fix a name mismatch before my flight?

KLM 's conditions allow the airline to refuse boarding Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK if you can't prove you're the person named on the ticket, and in more serious cases, the ticket can be cancelled without an automatic refund. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX

Does a small nickname difference actually cause problems at the airport?

It can, particularly on international itineraries Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK or U.S.-bound flights subject to TSA Secure Flight requirements, Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK since your booked name is expected to match your passport exactly, including middle names where applicable. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX

Where should I go to request a name correction?

KLM 's own official channels, such as the manage-my-booking tool Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK on KLM .com, the KLM app, or direct customer service, are the appropriate route, especially if your ticket was booked directly with KLM rather than through a third party. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX

Will KLM charge me for a name correction?

This depends on your fare type and the nature of the correction. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX Some minor corrections may be handled without extra charge, while others tied to fare-specific documentation Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK requirements could involve a fare readjustment, so it's best to confirm the specifics for your exact booking directly with KLM . Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK

People Also Search For

Travelers looking into KLM 's name change policy Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK often also searches for how the process compares across Air France and Delta, since all three airlines are closely Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK linked through joint ventures and codeshare agreements and sometimes handle passenger data differently depending on which carrier issued the original ticket. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX Many also look up how far in advance a name correction needs to be requested before it's considered too close to departure, Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK and whether travel insurance covers rebooking costs if a name error genuinely does force a new ticket purchase. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK Another common related search is how married name changes interact with frequent flyer accounts like Flying Blue, since loyalty program records Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK and ticket names can fall out of sync if only one of the two is updated after a legal name change. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX

Conclusion and Final Thought

KLM 's name change policy isn't complicated once Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK you separate the two situations it actually covers: correcting an error in how your own identity was entered, and updating a legal name that still belongs to the same traveler. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX Both of those are realistically fixable, especially the earlier you catch them. What isn't fixable, and isn't meant to be, is turning a ticket into something transferable to another person, Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK since that cuts against both KLM 's contract terms and the security framework airlines operate under. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK | +61 180 095 6584 AUS | +52 800 351 0313 MX The final thought worth taking away is the same one that applies to most airline policy questions: the moment you notice a discrepancy between your ticket and your ID, treat it as urgent. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK Fixing it days in advance through KLM 's official channels is a routine administrative task; discovering it at the check-in counter is a genuine risk to your trip. Call +1 888 794 3460 US | +44 800 066 4119 UK