



OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL **LEGAL ASSISTANCE POLICY DIVISION**



NAME CHANGE

To change your name, submit a petition to your local court detailing why you want to change your name. After the court approves your request, you'll then need to update your Social Security card, driver's license, and passport.

I've already filed my petition with the Court Clerk's Office. What do I need to do now?

Depending on state law, after you file the petition, you'll need to post a notice in your local newspaper stating your intent to change your name. You'll include in the notice your current name, your desired name, the court you've filed the petition with, the date you filed the petition on and a statement admitting the right of anyone interested to object to your name change.

If, no one voices objections, you can schedule your final hearing with the clerk's office, and the judge assigned to your case will consider the petition and grant the name change. ***Keep in mind each state is different and this may not be a requirement where you apply.***

Changing the Name of a Minor Child(ren)

I've submitted a petition for a name change on behalf of my minor child. Is the procedure the same for minors and adults?

This depends on the circumstances of your child's name change and state law. If both you and the other parent live in the state and you both agree to the name change, then after 30 days, the court generally grants the change.

If, however, the other parent lives out of state and must be informed of the petition by mail or by the local newspaper in that area, the court will consider the name change only after 60 days have passed.

What do I do if the other parent refuses to give consent?

In most states both parents must agree to change the name of their child. Typically, one parent may change the child's name if the other parent is dead, hasn't given any support for the child for at least the last five years before the petition filing or has abandoned the child. The parents must file the name change petition in the state and county the in which the child resides.

For more information, please contact your local legal assistance office to speak with an attorney.

Updated Sep 24