

HOW TO CHANGE YOUR NAME (Adult)



Fill out these court forms to ask the court for a name change:

1. [Certificate of Counsel](#) (Local Form RI-C1032)
2. [Civil Case Cover Sheet](#) (Form CM-010)
3. [Petition for Change of Name](#) (Form NC-100)
4. [Attachment to Petition to Change Name](#) (Form NC-110)
5. [Order to Show Cause for Change of Name](#) (Form NC-120)
6. [Decree Changing Name](#) (Form NC-130)

You will need two copies of each document. File all your papers with the copies at the clerk's office at the "public filing" window.

Publish the Order to Show Cause in a newspaper of general circulation once per week for 4 weeks in a row—ask your court for a list of qualified newspapers. Newspapers charge different fees, so call around.

Then go to your court hearing and the Judge will either grant or deny your request to change your name.

Can the Court refuse to change my name?

The Court usually agrees to change the name unless:

- Someone objects and the Judge agrees.
- Your new name includes threatening or obscene words, or racial slurs.
- The new name interferes with the rights of someone else. For example, you cannot change your name to a famous movie star's name to make money by using that name.
- The Judge finds that you are changing your name to hide from the law.

What happens after my name is changed?

You should get a certified copy of the court order from the court clerk (some agencies or companies may ask you for this).

You can use the certified copy to request important legal documents with your new name, including:

- A birth certificate with your new name
- A new social security card with your new name
- A driver's license or ID card with your new name

This will make it easier to have your other records changed, such as bills, bank records, etc.

Visit your local court for additional information.