



How to Change Your Name *(for an Adult)*

In California, adults can change their name *without* going to court. You can just start using your new name.

But, sometimes it's better to get your name changed by a court. Federal agencies and many government agencies, like DMV, will not accept your new name without a court order.

There are **two** main ways to get a court order for a name change.

① **Fill out and file these court forms to ask the court for a name change:**

- *Petition for Change of Name*, Form NC-100
- *Attachment to Petition to Change Name*, Form NC-110
- *Order to Show Cause for Change of Name*, Form NC-120
- *Decree Changing Name*, Form NC-130

You can fill out the forms online at:
www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/other/namechange.htm

And, put a notice in a newspaper saying you are changing your name. (You do not have to let anyone else know you are asking for a name change.)

Then go to a court hearing and ask the judge for a court order with your new name.

② **Ask for your old name during or after your divorce.**

If your divorce is *not* final, ask the judge to give you back the name you had before you were married.

If your divorce *is* final, you can ask the court to give you back your old name by filing a *Request for Restoration of Former Name*, form FL-395.

The Family Law Self-Help Center can help you fill out your forms.

Go to: **400 McAllister Street, Room 009**

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, racial slurs, or words that would cause confusion.
- You want to do something illegal with a new name.
- 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.

What happens after my name is changed?

It is a good idea to 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
- A driver's license or ID card with the new name.

This will make it easier to have your other records changed.

Need help?

Go to the ACCESS Center for the forms and instructions you need. We can also help you prepare your notice for newspaper publication. And, we can provide you with a list of newspapers for you to contact.

Our schedule is:

Monday – Thursday: 8:30 a.m. – 12 Noon
1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 12 Noon



ACCESS

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