



How to Change Your Child's Name

There are **two** main ways to change the name of a child:

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

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

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

Then, go to a court hearing and ask the judge for a court order with the child's new name.

Note: If only one parent fills out the form, you must also notify the other parent. (See below.)

② **Ask to change a child's name during or after a family law case.**

If you are involved in a family law case, like paternity or adoption, the court may be able to change the child's name as part of that case.

The Family Law Self-Help Center can help you fill out your forms. Go to:
400 McAllister Street, Room 009

Do I have to tell the other parent about the name change?

Yes. Both parents have the right to know about a request to change their child's name. You **must** let the other parent know, even if you have sole custody of your child.

How do I let the other parent know about the name change?

You **must** give "notice" to the other parent. There are specific steps you must follow. Ask a lawyer or ACCESS to help you with this.

You must also **put a notice of the hearing in a newspaper** for 4 weeks in a row, one day per week.

What if I don't know where (or who) the other parent is?

Contact ACCESS for information and help.

What happens if the parents don't agree?

The court will listen to both parents and decide what is best for the child.

The court will consider:

- How long the child has used the current name
- How the name change may affect the child's relationship with both parents
- How strong the parents' relationship is with the child
- The last name(s) of the child's siblings, if any
- What the child wants (for an older child), and
- Anything else the court considers important.

Will the Court agree to the name change?

The court usually agrees if the name change is best for the child, and:

- Both parents ask for the name change, or
- One parent asks, and the other parent was told about the name change and does not object,
- One parent has abandoned the child.

Need help?

Go to the ACCESS Center for the forms and instructions you need.

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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