

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILING A PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

NC-100-INFO

## 1. Where to File

- a. California residents: The petition for change of name must be filed in the superior court of the county where the person whose name is to be changed is a resident.
- b. Non-California residents: If the person whose name is to be changed is also requesting an order for the issuance of a new California marriage license and certificate, a new California birth certificate for the person whose name is to be changed, or a new California birth certificate for a minor or adult child of the person whose name is to be changed, the petition for change of name must be filed in the superior court of the county where the marriage took place, or where the birth certificate was issued.

## 2. Whose Name May Be Changed

The petition may be used to change your own name and, under certain circumstances, the names of others (e.g., children under 18 years of age).

## 3. Confidentiality of Certain Names

If you are a participant in the Secretary of State's address confidentiality program (Safe at Home), your current and proposed names may be kept confidential. (Code Civ. Proc., § 1277(b).) See *Information Sheet for Name Change Proceedings Under Address Confidentiality Program (Safe at Home)* (form NC-400-INFO) for additional instructions.

## 4. What Forms Are Required

Prepare an original and two copies of each of the following documents:

- a. *Petition for Change of Name* (form NC-100)
- b. *Name and Information About the Person Whose Name Is to Be Changed* (form NC-110) (attach as many copies as necessary)
- c. *Order to Show Cause—Change of Name* (form NC-120) or, if applicable, *Order to Show Cause—Change of Name to Conform to Gender Identity* (form NC-125)
- d. *Decree Changing Name* (form NC-130 or, for guardians, form NC-130G)
- e. *Civil Case Cover Sheet* (form CM-010)

In addition, a guardian must prepare and attach a *Supplemental Attachment to Petition for Change of Name* (Declaration of Guardian) (form NC-110G) for each child whose name is to be changed.

Local courts may require additional local forms. Check with the court to determine if additional forms are required.

## 5. Filing and Filing Fee

Prepare an original *Civil Case Cover Sheet* (form CM-010). File the original petition and *Civil Case Cover Sheet* with the clerk of the court and obtain two filed-endorsed copies of the petition. A filing fee will be charged unless you qualify for a fee waiver. (If you want to apply for a fee waiver, see *Request to Waive Court Fees* (form FW-001) and *Information Sheet on Waiver of Court Fees and Costs* (form FW-001-INFO). There is no filing fee for minors in the State's address confidentiality program (Safe at Home).

## 6. Requesting a Court Hearing Date and Obtaining the Order to Show Cause

You should request a date for the hearing on the *Order to Show Cause—Change of Name* (form NC-120) at least six weeks in the future. Take the completed form to the clerk's office. The clerk will provide the hearing date and location, obtain the judicial officer's signature, file the original, and give you a copy.

If you are changing your name to conform to gender identity, you need not request a hearing date. Instead, complete the *Order to Show Cause—Change of Name to Conform to Gender Identity* (form NC-125) and take the completed form to the clerk's office. The clerk will obtain the judicial officer's signature, file the original, and give you a copy.

## 7. Publishing the Order to Show Cause

In most cases, a copy of the *Order to Show Cause* must be published in a local newspaper of general circulation once a week for **at least four consecutive weeks** before the date of the hearing. You must select the newspaper from among those newspapers legally qualified to publish orders and notices. The newspaper used must file a Proof of Publication with the superior court before the hearing. If no newspaper of general circulation is published in the county, the court may order the *Order to Show Cause* to be posted by the clerk.

But you **do not have to publish** the order if the following applies:

- 1 You are seeking to change a name to conform to your gender identity;
- 1 You are a participant in the State Witness Program;
- 1 You are a participant in the address confidentiality program, and the petition alleges that you are petitioning to avoid (a) domestic violence, (b) stalking, (c) sexual assault, or (d) human trafficking; or
- 1 The name change is for a minor or nonminor dependent under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.

## 8. Name Change for Children

- a. If you are a petitioning parent requesting the name change for a child under 18 years of age, and one of the parents, if living, does not join in consenting to the name change, the petitioning parent must have a copy of the *Order to Show Cause* or notice of the time and place of the hearing served on the nonconsenting parent. Service must be made **at least 30 days prior to the hearing**, under Code of Civil Procedure section 413.10, 414.10, 415.10, or 415.40.
- b. If you are a petitioning parent or any other adult requesting the name change for a child **to conform to that child's gender identity** and a living parent does not join in the petition for the name change, you must have a copy of the petition and the *Order to Show Cause* served on the nonconsenting parent. Service must be made **within 30 days of the date the order is made by the court**, under Code of Civil Procedure sections 413.10, 414.10, 415.10, or 415.40.
- c. If the nonconsenting parent resides in California, the order or notice must be personally served on the nonconsenting parent. You cannot personally serve this document.
- d. If the nonconsenting parent resides outside California, that parent may be served by sending a copy of the order or notice by first-class mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested.
- e. If you are the guardian of a minor and filing a petition to change the name of that minor, you must (1) provide notice of the hearing to any living parent of the child by personal service at least 30 days before the hearing (or as in b above), or (2) if either or both parents are deceased or cannot be located, serve notice of the hearing on the child's grandparents, if living, not less than 30 days before the hearing, under Code of Civil Procedure section 413.10, 414.10, 415.10, or 415.40. *(If the minor's name is being changed to conform to gender identity, these notices and orders for grandparents need not be completed or served.)*

If you have served a parent or grandparent, file a copy of the completed *Proof of Service of Order to Show Cause* (form NC-121) with the court before the hearing.

## 9. Name Change for Person in Jail or Prison or on Parole

If you are a person in county jail, or under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (in state prison, or on parole) you may file a petition to change your name, but must serve the petition on a government agency.

1. If in county jail, you must provide a copy of the petition to the county sheriff's department. Check with the department as to how that should be done.
1. If in state prison, you must provide a copy of the petition to the warden. Check with the warden's office as to how that should be done.
1. If on parole, you must provide a copy of the petition to the regional parole administrator. Check with the administrator's office as to how that should be done.

After you have provided a copy to the sheriff, warden, or regional parole administrator, file a copy of the completed *Proof of Service By Mail* (form POS-030) with the court.

Note that the declaration on form NC-110 as to whether the petitioner is in jail or under jurisdiction of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is only for purposes of determining if service of the petition is required.

## 10. Court Hearing

If no written objection is filed at least two court days before the scheduled hearing, the court may grant the petition and sign the decree without a hearing. Check with the court to find out if a hearing will be held. If there is a hearing, bring copies of all documents to the hearing. If the judge grants the petition, the judge will sign the original decree.

If you filed a petition for name change to conform to gender identity, and timely objections were filed, the court may set a hearing date after receiving the objections. If it does, you will be sent a notice of the hearing date. Check with the court after the deadline for filing objections to see if a hearing date has been set. If there are no objections, the court will grant the petition and sign the decree without a hearing.

## 11. Requesting Accommodations for Disability

If you have a disability and need an accommodation to help you access your court hearing, you can use *Disability Accommodation Request* (form MC-410) to make your request. You can also ask the court's ADA Coordinator in your court for help. For more information, see *How to Request a Disability Accommodation for Court* (form MC-410-INFO).

### Issuance of New Birth Certificate

12. If you were born in California and want to amend a birth certificate to show the name change, you should contact the following office:

California Department of Public Health  
Vital Records – MS 5103  
P.O. Box 997410  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7410

Phone: 916-445-2684  
website: [www.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.cdph.ca.gov)

Local courts may supplement these instructions. Check with the court to determine whether supplemental information is available. For instance, the court may provide you with additional written information identifying the department that handles name change petitions, the times when petitions are heard, and the newspapers that may be used to publish the *Order to Show Cause*.