

Hi there. Thinking of changing your name? This video will explain how to legally change your name if you're an adult. If you're looking to change the name of a child, check out part 2 of this series. Watch part 3, if you want to change your name after getting married or divorced. If you need a judicial declaration of gender identity, which could include a name change, there is a separate process for this. Visit mdcourts.gov/genderidentity to learn more. If you're in the right place, let's get started.

By the way, you can *informally* change your name by using it in everyday life. But keep in mind, not all organizations will recognize an informal name change. Some might require a court order. Let's go through the steps of how to legally change your name with a court order.

CHAPTER HEADING: COURT ORDER

The first step is to file a Petition for Change of Name of an Adult. You can use form CC-DR-060. Attach documentation that shows your current name, like a copy of your birth certificate, driver's license, or passport. Include information regarding any former names, as well as the reason you want a new one. You cannot change your name for any illegal or fraudulent reason.

The next step is to file the petition and the supporting documentation in a circuit court. Each county in Maryland as well as Baltimore City has one. The next question, which court?

CHAPTER HEADING: WHICH COURT?

Where you file your petition depends on your situation. You can file in the Maryland circuit court where you live, carry on a regular business, work, habitually engage in a vocation, or where you were born. Expect to pay a filing fee. You may, however, be eligible for a waiver based on your income. Visit mdcourts.gov/feewaiver to learn more.

After your petition is filed, the next step is waiting for a response.

CHAPTER HEADING: WAITING FOR A RESPONSE

The court will give third parties 30 days to file an objection to your petition. Watch part 4 of this series to learn more about this. Even if no one objects, a judge may still have questions about your petition and schedule a hearing. If no hearing is scheduled, and you completed all steps properly, the court will sign an order legally changing your name. Some courts will mail you a certified copy of the order or you may need to contact the clerk's office to obtain copies.

You can use the order to change your name on your driver's license, birth certificate, passport, or other identity documents. It can also be used to update your name with the Social Security Administration, banks, creditors, and other agencies and institutions. If you were married in Maryland, you can ask the circuit court where you were married to issue a new marriage record

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Name Change (Part 1): Name Change for Adults

with your new name. Use form CC-FM-072 and remember to include a certified copy of the name change order.

And that sums up the process for changing your name. If you need more information, visit mdcourts.gov/namechange. Thanks for watching.