



## CHANGE OF NAME

(A.R.S. § 12-601-602, 25-325)

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Luke AFB, AZ, (623) 856-6901

In Arizona, an adult may change his or her name in several ways, provided that the change is not made to defraud others. A name change does not release you from any obligations or debts that you have incurred and it does not change any property rights.

One way to change a name is to file a petition for name change with the Superior Court in your county of residence. A fee is charged to file the petition but that may be waived or deferred based on your financial situation and the discretion of the Court. The petition must state the reason for the name change. If necessary, the court can require that notice of the intended name change be given to specific parties. After filing the petition, the Court will set a hearing before a Court Commissioner who will evaluate the request. If the Court grants and signs your name change, you must obtain a certified copy of that Order from the Clerk of the Court and should then contact all agencies that track and record official names for proper identification, such as Social Security, the Driver's License Bureau, your bank, and Bureau of Vital Records (where you can change your birth certificate to reflect your new name) and provide them notice of such change. Applications for filing for a change of name in Maricopa County are available at <http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/SuperiorCourt/Self-ServiceCenter/Forms/CivilCases/>.

Women may change their name after a divorce and reassume their maiden name or another former name, but such change must be granted in the Divorce Decree.

There is no law in Arizona requiring a child to use the name of his/her father. Likewise, a woman's name does not automatically change to that of her husband upon their marriage.

A parent or guardian must apply to change a child's name and notice of the other parent is required. If both parties cannot consent to the change, the Court will have a hearing and will determine, after that hearing, whether to grant the change. The court will consider the child's best interests in deciding whether to grant the name change. Of course, a child's name may also be changed through the adoption process.

For more information, call the Maricopa County Superior Court at (602) 506-3204 in Phoenix, (602) 372-9400 in Surprise, or (602) 506-2020 in Mesa. Forms are available at the Maricopa County Self-Service website:

[https://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/SuperiorCourt/Self-ServiceCenter/Forms/CivilCases/civil\\_cvncal.asp](https://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/SuperiorCourt/Self-ServiceCenter/Forms/CivilCases/civil_cvncal.asp)

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