



NAME CHANGE FACT SHEET



To change your name, submit a petition to your local Superior Court that details the reasons you'd like to change your name. After the court approves your request, you'll then need to update your Social Security card, driver's license and passport.

I've already filed my petition with the Superior Court Clerk's Office. What do I need to do now?

Within the week after you file the petition, you'll need to post a notice in your local newspaper stating your intent to change your name. You'll include in the notice your current name, your desired name, the court you've filed the petition with, the date you filed the petition on and a statement admitting the right of anyone interested to object to your name change. You'll need to run this notice once a week for four weeks.

If, after these four weeks, no one voices objections, you can schedule your final hearing with the clerk's office, and the judge assigned to your case will consider the petition and grant the name change.

Changing the Name of a Minor Child(ren)

I've submitted a petition for a name change on behalf of my minor child. Is the procedure the same for minors as it is for adults?

This depends on the circumstances of your child's name change. If both you and the other parent live in the state and you both agree to the name change, then after 30 days, the court generally grants the change.

If, however, the other parent lives out of state and must be informed of the petition by mail or by the local newspaper in that area, the court will consider the name change only after 60 days have passed.

What do I do if the other parent refuses to give consent?

Both parents must agree to change the name of their child in Georgia. Georgia only allows one parent to change the child's name if the other parent is dead, hasn't given any support for the child for at least the last five years before the petition filing or has abandoned the child. The parents must file the name change petition in the superior court of the Georgia county the child lives in.

How much does it cost to do a name change petition?

The filing fee is \$212.50 and the publication fee is \$50.00. These fees are paid to the clerk when you file your petition.

Who do I contact for assistance?

If you wish to schedule an appointment to discuss your name change request, contact the Fort Benning Legal Assistance Office at (706)545-3282/3281.



Office of the Staff Judge Advocate
Legal Assistance Office
6450 Way Avenue
Fort Benning, GA 31905
706-545-3281/3282