

LEGAL NAME CHANGES

VA CODE § 8.01-217

In Virginia, applicants requesting a legal name change must have lived in Virginia for at least 6 months and must file the request for name change with the Circuit Court in the county where the applicant resides. All applications must be notarized or signed in the presence of the clerk of court. Forms are available at <http://www.courts.state.va.us/forms/circuit/civil.html>.

NAME CHANGE FOR ADULT:

Form CC-1411

NAME CHANGE FOR MINOR:

Form CC-1427. If the child has two living parents, the parent who does not join the application must be given notice of the change and will have the opportunity to contest the name change application in a court hearing. In such a case, the court will determine whether the name change is in the best interests of the child.

MARRIAGE- wives who assume their husbands' last names or hyphenated surnames do not need to file a petition for a name change. It is recommended that husbands who change their names as a result of marriage file a petition for a legal name change.

DIVORCE- an ex-spouse who wishes to resume his or her former last name must apply for a legal name change with the court (name changes are no longer included in divorce decrees).

All name changes should also be reported to the Social Security Administration, the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Department of Tax or Revenue, and any other government agencies with whom you do regular business, to ensure there is no interruption of services or delinquencies in payments.