

Overview – Filing for a Name Change and the Necessary Documents

General Information:

The way a Name Change case starts is by a person (adult or minor) filing a Petition to change his/her own name or the name of another person (adult or minor).

The person filing the Petition for Name Change is called the Petitioner.

Other Details:

Additional documents need to be filed with the Petition for Name Change.

ADULT: For a petition to change the name of an **adult**, Petitioner must file either:

- A copy of the adult's driver's license or non-driver's ID or
- A copy of the adult's passport

If Petitioner does not have either of the above, the court might accept another form of photographic identification. This will be up to the judge in the case.

Additional documents may be required to show the adult(s) current name or current residence.

MINOR: For a petition to change the name of a **minor** (a person under 18 years of age), Petitioner must file:

- A copy of the minor's birth certificate.

If Petitioner is not able to obtain a copy of the minor's birth certificate, the court might accept a copy of the minor's passport or naturalization certificate.

Also, for a petition to change the name of a **minor**, a signed Consent form may be filed to show that the parent(s), guardian(s) or custodian(s) of the minor agree to the name change. Consent is not required. However, if signed Consent forms are not filed for each non-petitioning parent or guardian, the petition will need to be sent to each of them by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by sheriff service. Instructions for service will be sent electronically by the court.

Parents whose rights have been terminated by court order do not consent and are not entitled to notice of the Petition.

A person (adult or minor) seeking to change his/her name while incarcerated, or on probation or parole, or who is required to register as a sexual offender or an offender against children must take additional steps beyond filing a Petition for Name Change and identification documentation. These steps are described in the Overview titled: "Extra Steps Required when Seeking Name Change".

There is a filing fee for all Name Change Petitions.

Other Helpful Resources:

RSA:

RSA 547:3-i
RSA 550:4
RSA 547:29

Form(s):

Consent form (NHJB-2322-FPe)

Checklists:

Name Change (Adult)
Name Change (Minor)

Overview:

Required Steps If a Name Change Petition Is Granted
Extra Steps Required when Seeking Name Change

For Further Information:

If you have questions, please contact the Information Center at 1-855-212-1234