

GUAM NAME CHANGE

When I get married, how do I change my name? No lawsuit or court action is required. You will use certified copies of your marriage certificate to change your name on your driver's license, social security card, credit cards, banks, etc. Contact each government entity or place of business in order to determine their specific procedures for the name change.

When I get divorced or adopted, how do I change my name? In order to have a legal divorce or adoption, a lawsuit must be filed in the Superior Court of Guam. As part of these suits, you may request a name change without filing additional papers or filing additional fees. You will then use certified copies of the court order to change your name with various government and business entities. With an adoption, a new birth certificate will issue and that will be given to government and business entities.

When I become a naturalized citizen, how do I change my name? You can request in your filings with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services that your name be changed without paying an additional fee or making additional filings. Your ceremony must, however, be performed by the United States District Court for Guam.

What do I do to change my name in other cases? You will need to file a petition with the Clerk of the Guam Superior Court (120 West O'Brien Drive Hagåtña, Guam 96910-5174,) and pay a \$150 filing fee. The Clerk will give public notice of the filing and of the court date so that other interested parties (e.g., family members and creditors) may appear. The petition will contain information about you, the name you want, and the reason for the name change. Remember, it is against the law to change your name to hide from your creditors. The court order must be filed with the Office of Vital Statistics, Department of Public Health and Social Services. These documents can then be given to government and business entities in order to change your name.

Who can help me with this process? Neither the Court nor the Clerk prepares standardized forms for this process. You can hire a private attorney to help you do this or you can represent yourself. Though the NLSO is available to provide you guidance and information about the law, NLSO cannot prepare documents for you or appear in court.