

NAME CHANGES IN GUAM

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, Hagatna, Guam 96910-5174) and pay a minimum filing fee of \$300. The petition must specify your place of birth, current residence, current name, proposed new name, and the reason for your desired name change. 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 Order to Show Cause document should list the date and time of your hearing. At the hearing you will be required to swear under oath that you are not changing your name for fraudulent purposes (i.e. to avoid creditors).

After filing the petition with the Guam Superior Court Clerk's Office and pay the fee, you will be contacted by the Court when you can pick up the Order to Show Cause for posting. You will receive five (5) certified copies: three (3) certified copies for posting in three public places in Hagatna, and one (1) certified copy for posting in the village where you reside. The document must be posted for four consecutive weeks. You cannot post the form yourself. The posting can be done by:

- Any adult who is not related to you;
- A private process server that you have hired; or
- A Judiciary of Guam Marshal (\$80 fee).

The court's 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 Region Legal Service Office Legal Assistance Office is available to provide you guidance and information about the law, we cannot prepare documents for you or appear in court on your behalf.

Where can I find these forms? Interactive name change forms can be found at <http://www.lawhelp.org/gu/resource/do-it-yourself-legal-documents>. These forms are free to the public.

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