

24 - Name Change

Who can file for a name change?

Any resident who has lived in this County at least one year can file a name change petition for themselves, a spouse, or their minor children, provided they have legal custody. Each person seeking a name change must have been a County resident for at least one year.

How much does it cost?

\$150 filing fee for adult name changes (cash, certified check, or money order made payable to the 46th Circuit Trial Court).

\$10 for a certified copy of the name change order for adult or minor (cash, certified check, or money order, made payable to 46th Circuit Trial Court). \$1 each if more copies are ordered when the petition is filed.

How do I get my name changed?

Fill out a Petition for Change of Name, available at the Probate Court office. You must list the reason for the name change.

If the name change involves a child, you need the child's name and address. Also, you need addresses and signatures of the non-custodial parent(s). The only time a child can have their name changed without the non-custodial parent(s) approval is if the parents have substantially failed to visit the child and failed to provide support for the last 2 years.

If the child is 14 or older, the child must sign the petition.

What happens next?

You will be given a printout with the date and time to return to Court for a hearing. You must attend the hearing.

On the day that you file your name change petition, you must choose a legal newspaper which will print a notice of name change filing.

What happens after the hearing?

The Court will prepare an Order Changing Name. A certified copy of the order will be mailed to you if you have paid the fee.

Does the Court change the name on the birth certificate?

No. You must send an application for a new birth certificate to the Michigan Department of Public Health with a check or money order. Contact the Bureau of Vital Statistics in Lansing (517) 335-8660 to get a copy of this form, and the fee amount.

Court hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday-Friday, except holidays.