

Direction: friendly and approachable while balancing an air of expertise on the subject matter

Name Change for Adults (Part 1)

Hi. I'm A.J., named after my parents' favorite writer. I'm keeping my name, but maybe you're considering adopting a new one. If you're looking to change the name of a child, check out part 2 of this series.

Watch part 3 if you want to change your name after getting married or divorced.

By the way, if you are looking for a judicial declaration of gender identity, which can include a request to change your name, there is a separate process for that. Visit mdcourts.gov/genderidentity to learn more. If you are an adult and want to change your name, you are in the right place. Now, let's get started.

Please keep in mind you can *informally* change your name by simply using it. If you want to legally change your name, you will have to go through a court process. I'll walk you through the steps.

The first step is to file a Petition for Change of Name of an Adult. Use form CC-DR-060. You will have to provide information including your current legal name, any former names, and the reason you want to change your name. You cannot change your name for any illegal or fraudulent reason. You will also need to attach documentation that shows your current name, for example a copy of your birth certificate, driver's license, or passport.

The next step is to file the petition and the supporting documentation in a circuit court. Which court you use depends on your situation. You can file your petition in the circuit court

- Where you live,
- Carry on regular business,

- Work
- Engage in a vocation
- Or where you were born.

Each county in Maryland as well as Baltimore City has a circuit court. Expect to pay a filing fee. You may, however, be eligible for a waiver based on your income. Visit mdcourts.gov/feewaiver to learn more.

After your petition is filed, the next step is ...waiting for a response.