

LAW OFFICE OF
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I WANT TO CHANGE MY NAME!
by Susan Castleton Ryan, Esq.

Maybe you are getting divorced and you do not want to retain your married name. What can you do? If the divorce is at the very earliest stages, anyone desiring to have their name changed may include this request in the complaint for divorce. In the event there was no such request, it is still possible to have the changed by submitting a motion to the court on the day of the divorce hearing. There is no fee for this change. The judge will incorporate the name change into the judgment of divorce nisi.

If you were not sure you wanted to return to a former name at the time of the divorce, or if anyone wishes to change his/her name at any time, it is possible to do so by completing a petition entitled "Change of Name(s)", providing all related documents, including but not limited to a certified birth certificate, and paying the filing fee. It is much easier, and less expensive, to return to your former name at the time of divorce.

It is also possible to change a child's name, but not without court approval. Depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary to obtain the other parent's permission in order to change the child's name.

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