

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILING A CHANGE OF NAME (ADULT)

These standard instructions are for informational purposes only and do not constitute legal advice about your case. If you choose to represent yourself, you are bound by the same rules and procedures as an attorney.

GENERAL INFORMATION BEFORE YOU FILE YOUR PETITION

- ◆ You must be a resident of the county in which you are filing the Petition.
- ◆ You must be 18 years of age or older.
- ◆ You must not have been convicted of or adjudicated a juvenile delinquent for a felony in this state or any other state or under federal law. If you have been convicted or adjudicated, you may be eligible to file Petition for Change of Name (Felon).
- ◆ The Court will not consider a Petition for a name change unless a fingerprint-based criminal history record check is conducted within 90 days prior to the filing of the Petition.
- ◆ Unless the Court has ordered that publication is not required, proof of publication must be completed and submitted to the Court prior to the name change being officially granted.
- ◆ You may want to check with the Court where you plan to file your case for specific days or times when name change hearings are scheduled. You may have your hearing on the same day that you file your case or a future hearing will be set. Some Courts may not require a hearing and will issue an Order for Publication following a review of the Petition and supporting documentation.
- ◆ For additional information, please review Colorado Revised Statutes §§13-15-101, -102, C.R.S.
- ◆ NOTE: If you are changing your last name to your spouse or partner's last name due to a marriage or civil union, you **do not** need to go through the process described in these instructions. Agencies such as the Department of Motor Vehicles, Social Security Administration, etc. will likely need to see a certified copy of your marriage or civil union certificate to change your last name on your driver's license, social security card, etc. You should contact these and any other relevant agencies to find out what additional information they may need to process your name change.
- ◆ If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation to access the courts, please contact your local ADA Coordinator. Contact information can be obtained from the following website:
http://www.courts.state.co.us/Administration/HR/ADA/Coordinator_List.cfm

COMMON TERMS

- ☒ Petition: Document officially commences the Change of Name process.
- ☒ Petitioner: The person filing a Petition for Change of Name.
- ☒ Public Notice: Change of name shall be published at least three times within 21 days from the date of the order in a legal newspaper in the county where this case is filed.
- ☒ May: In legal terms, "may" is defined as "optional" or "can."
- ☒ Shall: In legal terms, "shall" is defined as "required."

If you do not understand this information, please contact an attorney.

FEES

The filing fee is \$88.00 in county court or \$238.00 in district court. If you are unable to pay, you must complete the Motion to File without Payment and Supporting Financial Affidavit (JDF 205) and submit it to the Court. Once you submit the completed JDF 205 form and a blank Order (JDF 206), the Court will decide whether you need to pay the filing fee.

Other fees that a party to the case may encounter are as follows:

- Publication Fee Varies (May be payable to the Court or to the newspaper).
- Copies of Documents (Documents on File) \$.75 per page or \$1.50 if double-sided
- Copies of Documents (Documents not on File) \$.25 per page or \$.50 if double-sided
- Certification Fee \$ 20.00
- Cost of Fingerprints (See information on fingerprinting in Step 1)
- Fingerprint-based Criminal History Check (See information on fingerprinting in Step 1)

- Public Notice (JDF 427).**
 - Complete all sections of this form.
 - This is the form that you will submit to the local newspaper to publish notice of the requested name change.
- Final Decree for Change of Name (JDF 448).**
 - Complete caption only.
 - The Judge or Magistrate will sign the Decree.
 - This form will be returned to you only upon proof of publication.

Step 3: You are ready to file your Petition with the Court.

- Provide the Court with the documents completed as described in Steps 1 - 2 above and pay the filing fee.
- The Court may require a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Step 4: Be prepared for your hearing, if a hearing is required by the Court.

You may be asked questions about your request for a name change.

Step 5: Publish proposed name change.

After the Order for Publication is entered, the change of name must be published at least three times within 21 days from the date of the publication order in a newspaper by using the Public Notice (JDF 427) form, unless pursuant to §13-15-102, C.R.S., you have been:

- The victim of a crime, the underlying factual basis of which has been found by the Court; to include an act of domestic violence as defined in §18-6-800.3(1), C.R.S.; or
- The victim of child abuse as defined in §18-6-401, C.R.S., or
- The victim of domestic abuse as defined in §13-14-101(2), C.R.S.

Step 6: Obtain a signed copy of the Decree for Name Change from the Court.

- Submit proof of publication to the Court. This can include copies of the newspaper notice.
- If publication is not required pursuant to §13-15-102, C.R.S., you will receive your Decree once ordered by the Court.
- If you need certified copies, please provide the appropriate fees.

Note: If you own property, you should record a Decree for Change of Name with the Clerk and Recorder's Office in the county where the property is recorded to reflect the new name on the property records.

- Check with the Clerk and Recorder's Office for the fee to record the name change, office hours, if the information can be submitted by mail or in person, etc.