



Lane County

Law Library

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Name Change Research Guide

GENERALLY: In Oregon, any person over eighteen years of age can choose and use any name he or she wishes as long as the purpose of the change in the name is not to defraud another. For example, it is not legal to change names to avoid creditors or to escape obligations such as child support.

The following excerpt is from The Oregon State Bar:

http://www.osbar.org/public/legalinfo/1137_NameChanges.htm

“It is not strictly necessary to go to court to change your name. You can change your name without legal proceedings merely by using the new name. This name change must not be used for fraudulent purposes, or it will not be effective. Be aware, however, that such an informal name change may cause difficulties in governmental offices that will ask for documentation proving that you are in fact you. You may have chosen to change your name when you married, which will be documented by your marriage certificate. A change of name is given in an adoption and in a divorce so there is no need to file for one. You may petition the court for a name change. If you are under age 18, written notice must be given to your parents or legal guardian. You may also need to have your parents’ consent, or have a guardian appointed for the purpose of changing your name. A name change for a minor child is not an adoption.”

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

BOOKS:

Family Law - published by the Oregon State Bar and located behind the Reference Desk (ask the librarian for access to these materials). Volume 3, Chapter 21 relates to name changes. **KFO 2494.Z9 2013 RES**

OTHER PRINT ITEMS:

Oregon Revised Statutes center of the Oregon Collection or online at
https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/Pages/ORS.aspx

The library catalog may direct you to other helpful resources related to Name Changes:

<http://www.libraryworld.net/cgi-bin/opac.pl?command=signin&libraryname=lanecountylib&guest=allow>

WEBSITES:

The Lane County Circuit Court rules on Change of Name procedures.

<http://courts.oregon.gov/Lane/CivilandLandlord/NameChange.page?>

(Please Note: The following information applies to Adult Name Changes.)

“You must be a resident of Lane County to file an adult name change in Lane County. If you choose to obtain a name change without an attorney, the following forms are available at any stationery store or bookstore that sells legal documents:

- Petition for Change of Name
- Order to Give Notice and Appear and Show Cause
- Notice of Change of Name Hearing
- Declaration re Proof of Posting Notice of Hearing
- Declaration re Proof of Posting Notice of Name Change
- General Judgment of Change of Name and Order to Post
- Notice of Change of Name Judgment
- Declaration in Support of Petition for Name Change.”

A full set of instructions from the County can be found:

<http://courts.oregon.gov/Lane/docs/procedureadultnamechange1111.pdf>

Minor Child Name Changes:

Minor child name changes can be complicated. You may wish to consult an attorney on the process.

Further Information and additional assistance can be found at:

Oregon State Bar

The OSB has public information pages with information on family law on its public information pages at:

http://www.osbar.org/public/legalinfo/1137_NameChange.htm

Legal Aid Services of Oregon

This website has general legal information on family law, in both English and Spanish at:

www.oregonlawhelp.org

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