

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLORIDA SUPREME COURT APPROVED FAMILY LAW
FORM 12.982(c)
PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME (MINOR CHILD(REN)) (11/15)**

When should this form be used?

This form should be used when a parent or parents want the court to change the name of their minor child(ren). For the purposes of this proceeding, a person under the age of 18 is a minor. This form is not to be used in connection with an adoption, dissolution of marriage, or **paternity action**. If you want a change of name for your child(ren) because of an adoption or paternity action that is not yet final, the change of name should be requested as part of that case.

This form should be typed or printed in black ink and must be signed before a notary public or deputy clerk. You should file the original with the clerk of the circuit court, in the county where you live and keep a copy for your records. The **Petition** should only be completed by one Petitioner for one child. If you wish to change the name of more than one child or if there is more than one Petitioner, you should complete and file a Supplemental Form for Petition for Change of Name (Minor Child) for each child and/or a Supplemental Form for Petition for Change of Name. The supplemental form(s) is an attachment to the petition. **Be sure that the bottom of each page of each supplemental form is initialed by the petitioner(s).**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-FILING

The Florida Rules of Judicial Administration now require that all petitions, pleadings, and documents be filed electronically except in certain circumstances. **Self-represented litigants may file petitions or other pleadings or documents electronically; however, they are not required to do so.** If you choose to file your pleadings or other documents electronically, you must do so in accordance with Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.525, and you must follow the procedures of the judicial circuit in which you file. **The rules and procedures should be carefully read and followed.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING E-SERVICE ELECTION

After the initial service of process of the petition or supplemental petition by the Sheriff or certified process server, the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration now require that all documents required or permitted to be served on the other party must be served by electronic mail (e-mail) except in certain circumstances. **You must strictly comply with the format requirements set forth in the Rules of Judicial Administration.** If you elect to participate in electronic service, which means serving or receiving pleadings by electronic mail (e-mail), or through the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal, you **must** review Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516. You may find this rule at www.flcourts.org through the link to the Rules of Judicial Administration provided under either Family Law Forms: Getting Started, or Rules of Court in the A-Z Topical Index.

SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS MAY SERVE DOCUMENTS BY E-MAIL; HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED TO DO SO. If a self-represented litigant elects to serve and receive documents by e-mail, the procedures must always be followed once the initial election is made.

To serve and receive documents by e-mail, you must designate your e-mail addresses by using the

Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915, and you must provide your e-mail address on each form on which your signature appears. Please **CAREFULLY** read the rules and instructions for: **Certificate of Service (General)**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.914; **Designation of Current Mailing and E-mail Address**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915; and Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516.

What should I do next?

Unless you are seeking to restore a former name, each adult petitioner(s)'s fingerprints must be submitted for a state and national criminal history records check. The fingerprints must be taken in a manner approved by the Department of Law Enforcement. The fingerprints must be submitted to the Department of Law Enforcement for a state and national criminal history records check. **The Petitioner(s) may not request a hearing on the Petition until the copy of the fingerprints are filed and the clerk of court has received the results of the criminal history records check.** The clerk of court can instruct you on the process for having the fingerprints taken and submitted, including information on law enforcement agencies or service providers authorized to submit fingerprints electronically to the Department of Law Enforcement. The process may take several weeks and the parent or guardian of the minor must pay the cost of processing the fingerprints and conducting the state and national history records check.

If **both** parents agree to the change of name and live in the county where the change of name is sought, you may both file as **petitioners**. In this situation, **service** is not necessary, and you need only to set a **hearing**. You should ask the clerk of court, **family law intake staff**, or **judicial assistant** about the local procedure for setting a hearing.

If only one parent is a resident of the county where the change of name(s) is sought **or** only one parent asks for the child(ren)'s name(s) to be changed, the other parent must be notified and his or her consent obtained, if possible. If the other parent consents to the change of name, a **Consent for Change of Name (Minor Child(ren))**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.982(d), should be filed.

If the other parent does not consent to the change of name, you may still have a hearing on the petition **if** you have properly notified the other parent about your petition and the hearing. If you know where he or she lives, you must use **personal service**. If you absolutely do not know where he or she lives, you may use **constructive service**. For more information about personal and constructive service, you should refer [to] the **"General Instructions for Self-Represented Litigants"** found at the beginning of these forms and the instructions to Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Forms 12.910(a) and 12.913(b) and Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.913(a). However, the law regarding constructive service is very complex and you may wish to consult an attorney regarding that issue.

Next, you must obtain a **final hearing** date for the court to consider your request. If you are seeking to restore a former name, a hearing on the petition **MAY** be held immediately after the petition is filed. The final hearing on any other petition for a name change may be held immediately after the clerk of court receives the results of your criminal history records check. You should ask the clerk of court, family law intake staff, or judicial assistant about the local procedure for setting a hearing. You may be required to attend the hearing. Included in these forms is a **Final Judgment of Change of Name (Minor Child(ren))**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.982(e), which may be used when a judge grants a change of name for a minor child(ren). If you attend the hearing, you should take the

final judgment with you. You should complete the top part of the form, including the circuit, county, case number, division, and the name(s) of the petitioner(s) and leave the rest blank for the judge to complete. It should be typed or printed in black ink.

If the judge grants your petition, he or she will sign this **order**. This officially changes your child(ren)'s name(s). The clerk can provide you with **certified copies** of the signed order. There will be charges for the certified copies, and the clerk can tell you the amount of the charges.

Where can I look for more information?

Before proceeding, you should read "General Information for Self-Represented Litigants" found at the beginning of these forms. For further information, see section 68.07, Florida Statutes.

Special notes...

The heading of the form calls for the name(s) of the **petitioner(s)**. This means the parent(s) who is (are) requesting the change of their child(ren)'s name(s). The judicial circuit, case number, and division may be obtained from the clerk of court's office when you file the petition.

It may be helpful to compile a list of all of the people and places that will need a copy of the final judgment. This list may include the driver's license office, social security office, banks, schools, etc. A list will help you know how many copies of your order you should get from the clerk of court after your hearing.

Remember, a person who is NOT an attorney is called a nonlawyer. If a nonlawyer helps you fill out these forms, that person must give you a copy of a **Disclosure from Nonlawyer**, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure Form 12.900(a), before he or she helps you. A nonlawyer helping you fill out these forms also **must** put his or her name, address, and telephone number on the bottom of the last page of every form he or she helps you complete.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE _____ JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: _____
Division: _____

IN RE: THE NAME CHANGE OF

Petitioner/Father,

Petitioner/Mother.

PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME (MINOR CHILD(REN))

I/We, {full legal name(s)} _____, being sworn, certify that the following information is true:

I am/We are the birth or legal parent(s) or guardian of the minor child(ren) named in this petition.

{Choose **only one**}

- a. _____ There is only one minor child named in this petition.
- b. _____ There are {enter number of children} _____ children named in this petition. The information on the first child is entered below. I/We have attached the completed supplemental forms for each other child.

The adult petitioner(s)'s fingerprints have been taken in a manner approved by the Department of Law Enforcement and submitted for a state and national criminal history records check. **I /We understand that I/we cannot request a hearing on my/our Petition until the clerk of court receives the results of the criminal history records check.**

A. **THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS TRUE ABOUT CHILD # 1 :**

1. **Minor child's complete present name is:**

I/We request that this minor child's name be changed to:

2. The minor child lives in _____ County, Florida, at {street address} _____

3. The minor child was born on {date} _____, in {city, county, state, country} _____

PETITIONER(S) MUST INITIAL HERE _____

4. The minor child's father's full legal name: _____
The minor child's mother's full legal name: _____
The minor child's mother's maiden name: _____

5. The minor child has lived in the following places since birth:

Dates (to/from)	Address
_____/_____/_____	_____
_____/_____/_____	_____
_____/_____/_____	_____
_____/_____/_____	_____
_____/_____/_____	_____

(____ Please indicate here if you are continuing these facts on an attached page.)

6. {Choose **one** only}

____ The minor child is not married.
____ The minor child is married to: {full legal name} _____.

7. {Choose **one** only}

____ The minor child has no children.
____ The minor child is the parent of the following child(ren): {enter full name(s) and date(s) of birth} _____

8. **Former names.**

{Indicate **all** that apply}

____ The minor child's name has never been changed by a court.
____ The minor child's name previously was changed **by court order** from _____
to _____ on {date} _____
by {court, city, and state} _____.

A copy of the court order is attached.

____ The minor child's name previously was changed **by marriage** from _____
to _____ on {date} _____ in
{city, county, and state} _____.

A copy of the marriage certificate is attached.

____ The minor child has never been known or called by any other name.

____ The minor child has been known or called by the following other name(s): {list name(s) and explain where child was known or called by such name(s)} _____

9. The minor child is not employed in an occupation or profession, does not own and operate a business, and has received no educational degrees. If the minor child has a job, explain: _____

10. **Criminal History.**

{Choose **one** only}

____ The minor child has never been arrested for or charged with, pled guilty or nolo

PETITIONER(S) MUST INITIAL HERE _____

contendere to, or been found to have committed a criminal offense, regardless of adjudication.
_____ The minor child has a criminal history. In the past, the minor child was arrested for or charged with, pled guilty or nolo contendere to, or been found to have committed a criminal offense, regardless of adjudication. The details of the criminal history are:

Date	City/State	Event (arrest, charge, plea, or adjudication)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

(_____ Please indicate here if you are continuing these facts on an attached page.)

11. Money Judgments.

*{Choose **one** only}*

_____ The minor child has never been adjudicated bankrupt, and no money judgment has ever been entered against him or her.

_____ The following money judgment(s) has been entered against him or her:

Date	Amount	Creditor	Court entering judgment and case number	{date} if Paid
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

B. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS TRUE ABOUT PETITIONER(S):

_____ **FATHER** _____ **MOTHER** _____ **GUARDIAN**

_____ **A Supplemental Form has been attached for the other parent or petitioner.**

1. My complete present name is: _____

2. I live in _____ County, Florida, at {street address} _____

3. I have no ulterior or illegal purpose for filing this petition, and granting it will not in any manner invade the property rights of others, whether partnership, patent, good will, privacy, trademark, or otherwise.
4. My civil rights have never been suspended, or, if ever suspended, they have been fully restored.

PETITIONER(S) MUST INITIAL HERE _____

I understand that I am swearing or affirming under oath to the truthfulness of the claims made in this petition and that the punishment for knowingly making a false statement includes fines and/or imprisonment.

Dated: _____

Signature of Party

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

Designated E-mail Address(es): _____

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF _____

Sworn to or affirmed and signed before me on _____ by _____.

NOTARY PUBLIC or DEPUTY CLERK

{Print, type, or stamp commissioned name of notary or clerk.}

_____ Personally known
_____ Produced identification
Type of identification produced _____

IF A NONLAWYER HELPED YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, HE/SHE MUST FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW:

[fill in **all** blanks] This form was prepared for the Petitioner(s).

This form was completed with the assistance of:

{name of individual} _____,

{name of business} _____,

{address} _____,

{city} _____, {state} _____, {zip code} _____, {telephone number} _____.

PETITIONER(S) MUST INITIAL HERE _____

ADULT SUPPLEMENTAL FORM FOR PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME (MINOR CHILDREN)

Case No.: _____

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS TRUE ABOUT PETITIONER(S):

() FATHER () MOTHER () GUARDIAN

1. My complete present name is: _____

2. I live in _____ County, Florida, at {street address} _____

3. I have no ulterior or illegal purpose for filing this petition, and granting it will not in any manner invade the property rights of others, whether partnership, patent, good will, privacy, trademark, or otherwise.
4. My civil rights have never been suspended, or, if ever suspended, they have been fully restored.

I understand that I am swearing or affirming under oath to the truthfulness of the claims made in this petition and that the punishment for knowingly making a false statement includes fines and/or imprisonment.

Dated: _____

 Signature of Party
 Printed Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Telephone Number: _____
 Fax Number: _____
 Designated E-mail Address(es): _____

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF _____

Sworn to or affirmed and signed before me on _____ by _____.

NOTARY PUBLIC or DEPUTY CLERK

PETITIONER(S) MUST INITIAL HERE _____

{Print, type, or stamp commissioned name of notary or clerk.}

_____ Personally known
_____ Produced identification
Type of identification produced _____

IF A NONLAWYER HELPED YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, HE/SHE MUST FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW:

[fill in **all** blanks] This form was prepared for the Petitioner(s).

This form was completed with the assistance of:

{name of individual} _____,

{name of business} _____,

{address} _____,

{city} _____, *{state}* _____, *{zip code}* _____, *{telephone number}* _____.

PETITIONER(S) MUST INITIAL HERE _____

SUPPLEMENTAL FORM FOR PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME (MINOR CHILD(REN))

Case No.: _____

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS TRUE ABOUT CHILD # _____:

1. **Minor child's complete present name is:**

I/We request that minor child's name be changed to:

2. The minor child lives in _____ County, Florida, at {street address} _____

3. The minor child was born on {date} _____, in {city, county, state, country}

4. The minor child's father's full legal name: _____
The minor child's mother's full legal name: _____
The minor child's mother's maiden name: _____

5. The minor child has lived in the following places since birth:

Dates (to/from)	Address
____/____/____	_____
____/____/____	_____
____/____/____	_____
____/____/____	_____
____/____/____	_____
____/____/____	_____
____/____/____	_____
____/____/____	_____

(_____ Please indicate here if you are continuing these facts on an attached page.)

6. {Choose **one** only}

_____ The minor child is not married.
_____ The minor child is married to: {full legal name} _____.

{Choose **one** only}

_____ The minor child has no children.
_____ The minor child is the parent of the following child(ren): {enter full name(s) and date(s) of birth} _____

7. **Former names**

[Choose all that apply]

_____ The minor child's name has never been changed by a court.
_____ The minor child's name previously was changed by court order from _____

PETITIONER(S) MUST INITIAL HERE _____

to _____ on {date} _____, by {court, city, and state} _____. A copy of the court order is attached.

_____ The minor child's name previously was changed by marriage from _____ to _____ on {date} _____, in {city, county, and state} _____.

A copy of the marriage certificate is attached.

_____ The minor child has never been known or called by any other name.

_____ The minor child has been known or called by the following other name(s): {list name(s) and explain where child was known or called by such name(s)} _____.

8. The minor child is not employed in an occupation or profession, does not own and operate a business, and has received no educational degrees. If the minor child has a job, explain: _____.

9. Criminal History

[Choose one only]

_____ The minor child has never been arrested for or charged with, pled guilty or nolo contendere to or been found to have committed a criminal offense, regardless of adjudication.

_____ The minor child has a criminal history. In the past, the minor child was arrested for or charged with, pled guilty or nolo contendere to, or been found to have committed a criminal offense, regardless of adjudication. The details of the criminal history are:

Date	City/State	Event (arrest, charge, plea, or adjudication)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

(_____ Please indicate here if you are continuing these facts on an attached page.)

10. Money Judgments

[Choose one only]

_____ The minor child has never been adjudicated bankrupt, and no money judgment has ever been entered against him or her.

_____ The following money judgment(s) has (have) been entered against him or her: Date
Date Amount Creditor Court entering judgment and case number {date} if Paid

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

PETITIONER(S) MUST INITIAL HERE _____