

# Getting Started

## Request for Name Change (Minor Children)

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**IMPORTANT:** This getting started guide and the instructions are not legal advice. They are only meant to help you learn how to change the name of a child under 18. Your use of these forms does not guarantee you will be successful in court.

To learn how to fill out the forms and file them with the court, read the *How to Change Children's Names* instruction sheet and the instructions on the forms.

<b>Names of forms:</b>	Required forms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Request for Name Change (Minor Children)</i></li><li>• <i>Request for Name Change - Child Information</i></li><li>• <i>Order for Name Change (Minor Children)</i></li></ul> Optional forms depending on the facts in your case: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Notice of Court Date Request for Name Change (Minor Children)</i></li><li>• <i>Publication Notice of Court Date for Request for Name Change (Minor Children)</i></li><li>• <i>Request for Name Change - Additional Children</i></li><li>• <i>Request for Name Change - Additional Parent</i></li></ul>
<b>Purpose of the forms:</b>	To ask the court for a name change for minor children.
<b>Types of cases the forms CAN be used for:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cases asking the court to change the names of children under the age of 18 if:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ you are the legal parent and you have custody or significant decision making responsibility;</li><li>○ you are the legal guardian with legal custody; OR</li><li>○ the children have lived in your home for 3 years and the children are recognized as your adopted children.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Types of cases the forms CANNOT be used for:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cases asking the court to change the names of the children if you have <b>not</b> lived in Illinois continuously for 6 months are not allowed.</li><li>• Cases asking the court to change the name of an adult require a different form which can be found at: <a href="http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/Forms/approved/">http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/Forms/approved/</a></li></ul>
<b>Cost to file the forms:</b>	There is a fee for filing. If you cannot afford to pay the filing fee, you can ask the court to file for free by filing the <i>Application for Waiver of Court Fees</i> found at: <a href="http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/Forms/approved/">http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/Forms/approved/</a>
<b>Special information or papers needed to complete the forms:</b>	Papers relating to the children's criminal record if there is one. A criminal record may prevent the court from changing the children's names.
<b>Statutes covering the forms:</b>	<a href="#">735 Illinois Compiled Statutes</a> , section 5/21-101 through section 5/21-104
<b>Where to find the forms and instruction sheet:</b>	<a href="http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/Forms/approved/">http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/Forms/approved/</a>
<b>For more information:</b>	Read the <i>How to Change Children's Names</i> instruction sheet that comes with these forms. You may also find more information, resources, and the location of your local county self help center at: <a href="http://www.illinoislegalaid.org/minornamechange">http://www.illinoislegalaid.org/minornamechange</a>