

NAME CHANGES FOR MINORS IN CONNECTICUT



What are the legal requirements?

A petition to change the name of a minor may be by a parent or guardian of the minor. If a parent does not join in the petition, the petition must specify the reasons the parent has not joined in the petition and the court will give notice to any parent or guardian not on the petition and to the minor if the minor is 12 years or older. *Probate Court Rules Section 47.2.*

What should I file and what forms should I use?

File a petition in the court for the probate district in which the minor resides:

<http://www.ctprobate.gov/Pages/Directory.aspx>

File the following documents:

- Application for Name Change: <http://www.ctprobate.gov/Forms/PC-900.pdf>
- Affidavit re Change of Name: <http://www.ctprobate.gov/Forms/PC-910A.pdf>
- A copy of the birth certificate
- Two forms of identification including at least one form of photographic identification.

Payment of \$225 is due at the time of filing the application and affidavit. Payment may be made by cash, credit card, check, or money order. Make checks payable to “Treasurer, State of Connecticut.” Applicants who are indigent or unable to pay the application fee may be eligible for a waiver. The waiver application is PC-184: <http://www.ctprobate.gov/Forms/PC-184.pdf>.

The court will hold a hearing on the application. Notice of the hearing will be sent to all interested parties, including any parent or guardian not on the petition and the minor if the minor is 12 years or older.

You may want to request more than one certified copy of the name change order, since certified copies may be required to update the minor’s legal name with other agencies.

Does the process require parental consent?

If both parents do not consent, the petitioning parent or guardian must explain reasons the other parent/s chose not to join in the petition.

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What will the judge consider?

Judges have a lot of discretion in granting name changes. Some may have lots of questions and want to see lots of evidence regarding the name change of the child, others may grant a name change as long as there are no objections. Judges may consider whether to grant a name change for a minor according to what is in the ‘best interests of the child’. They typically evaluate the best interest of the child by looking at a variety of factors, which may include the child’s preference (taking into consideration their age and experience), the length of time a child has used that name, the difficulties, harassment, or embarrassment a child may experience from the present or proposed name, and the motives or interests of the parent.

To demonstrate that the name change is in the best interests of the child, along with the name change petition you may want to submit evidence showing the judge why this is in the child’s best interest. Examples of such evidence would be letters from teachers, family, or friends confirming their use of preferred name, letters from providers confirming the child’s gender identity, etc.