



## Contact Legal Assistance

For legal assistance generally, make an appointment with the 412 TW/JA legal office

Walk-ins available for powers of attorney and notaries Monday—Thursday 9am-3pm

Phone: 661-277-4310

Email: [412tw.ja.workflow@us.af.mil](mailto:412tw.ja.workflow@us.af.mil)

Address: Trailer at 1 S. Rosamond Blvd.,  
Edwards AFB, 93524



## Name Changes

Edwards Air Force Base  
412 TW/JA





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## Changing Your Gender Marker

Usually, changing your name is a prerequisite for changing your gender.

In some states, the name change process may be separate and in addition to the gender change one. After you have changed your name, you may not need to go into court again to change your gender marker.

Start by researching your state's specific policies, and follow them to change the gender marker on your birth certificate and your driver's license.

Update your information with the nearest Social Security office and passport office. Then update your insurance, financial accounts, and school or employment records.

**Name and gender changes generally must be reported to the Selective Service System.**



## Other Ways to Change a Name

Be aware that in California and in many other states, a name change is automatically part of the process if you are getting

- married,
- divorced,
- becoming a citizen, or
- changing you or your child's gender identity.

The process and fees associated with these other name changes will vary.

For example, if you are changing your name as part of a larger gender change in California, you no longer have to publish your new name in a newspaper for four weeks, saving you time and roughly a hundred dollars.

If you are getting married, you can simply list the new name on your marriage license without having to go to court. If you are getting divorced, you can ask for your former name.

If you are getting naturalized, the federal judge administering your citizenship oath can sign a decree changing your name, without you having to go into state court.



## You Can Change Your Name



### You Make the Decision

Whether because of family changes or personal ones, you are empowered under state law to legally change your name. You should change your name in the state in which you are a legal resident. Be aware that a judge has discretion to disapprove of any inappropriate names.

### Gender Identity

You may be interested in changing your name because of a larger change in gender identity. For these cases, some states have special rules that waive the name change filing fee, which can run in the hundreds of dollars.



### You Will Need to Go to Court

Name changes work by obtaining a court order that you can then take to show government agencies. So, you will need to file in court. It may be possible to file electronically for a small fee. Courts will also require your new, proposed name to be publically posted for a period of time, such as in a newspaper. Be aware that the entire process will take months.





# States Generally

## Know Your State of Residence

If you are thinking about changing your name, the first step is to research the courts of the state in which you are a legal resident. The legal residence state and the state in which you currently live in may be different. Your legal residence state is the state in which you last you made your home with the intention of living permanently. Being stationed in a new state solely because of an Air Force assignment would not qualify as residence.

## Research the Specifics of Your State

The next step is to research your state's online court system for specific resources and how-tos. Each state's policies will vary. Generally, however, the first formal action you will take is to file a petition with the local court. You should be able to file online, usually with a third-party provider, for a small fee, usually around ten dollars. Court fees for the name change itself, however, may run into the hundreds of dollars, although you may qualify for a fee waiver.

## Public Posting

Before courts will approve your new name, you must post your proposed name in a public place for a period of time, usually at least two weeks. This notice could be posted in the courthouse itself, or else published in a newspaper, in which case you would have to pay another fee to the newspaper.



# In California

Start your name change in California online at [selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/name-change/name-adult](https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/name-change/name-adult).

This site will have the forms you need to fill out online. There are five forms. Once you have filled out the forms, print or save them to your computer. To file these forms, you will need to enclose a \$435 filing fee, or else attach a separate form requesting a fee waiver. To qualify in 2022 for a fee waiver, a single person in their own household must make less than \$1,415.63 a month.

Then go to the website of the closest California superior court to you. They will be separated by county. For Los Angeles County, the website will be [lacourt.org](https://lacourt.org), and the closest courthouse in the Antelope Valley area is the Michael Antonovich courthouse. The superior court website will tell you directions, hours, and steps to file your forms with the court. Additionally, the website will have an "Efile" option under the civil law section that will allow you to file your forms without actually having to physically go into court. You can select from the many third-party efile providers available, for a small fee of \$10.

Before the court will approve your new name, you must publish it in a court-approved newspaper for four weeks. Newspapers have an established service for this, but fees will vary. *The Antelope Valley Press* charges \$95 for this service.

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*Go to [selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/name-change/name-adult](https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/name-change/name-adult)*

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