



Information Sheet: Change of Name

Any adult can change their name if they wish to do so as long as it is not done under duress or to avoid creditors.

For example, if you are a divorced woman who wishes to change your name back to your maiden name, we can prepare and execute a 'Change of Name' deed on your behalf.

What if I want to change my child's name?

The issue of what a child is called is a sensitive one and a change may be made by the parent with care for good practical reasons or because it seems to the parent with care that the child's interests are best served by such a change.

However, a change of name is usually strongly opposed by the other parent particularly if the change involves dropping a name shared with the other parent.

If you wish to change your child's name you must obtain the permission of the other parent, if they share parental responsibility. If only the mother has parental responsibility then consent of the father does not need to be obtained, however, it is good practice to do so.

If a change of name is made without your consent, and you have parental responsibility for the child, you can make an application to the court for a specific issue order for the child's name to be changed back to the name on their birth certificate. This will be dealt with in the same way as other applications relating to children.

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If you need any further information about matters in this information sheet, please do not hesitate to contact us.