

How to Change Your Name

You should make sure to change your name on your Drivers License, Vehicle Registration, Car Title, Social Security Card, Insurance, Banks, Credit Cards, and Passport.

For proof of your marriage or civil union, you will need to obtain certified copies of the record from the municipality where your ceremony took place or from the NJ State Department of Health and Vital Statistics (609) 292-4087. You may also order certified copies online at www.vitalchek.com.

NAME CHANGE DUE TO MARRIAGE - WOMEN:

Name changes after marriage for women are done by simply using your new name consistently. In most instances, you may be required to show proof of marriage.

NAME CHANGES DUE TO MARRIAGE - MEN:

In NJ, men are allowed to change their name by showing their certified marriage certificate as proof for NJ agencies and NJ companies. It should be noted that federal agencies (social security, passport agencies, and federal agency employers) do not recognize name changes for men after marriage, and will not accept a certified copy of a marriage certificate as proof of a name change. We recommend you obtain a legal name change authorized through a court. For information on legal name changes, please see the following website: <http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/prose/10551.pdf>

NAME CHANGES DUE TO CIVIL UNIONS (BOTH MEN AND WOMEN):

In NJ, civil union partners are allowed to change their name by showing their certified civil union certificate as proof for NJ agencies and NJ companies. It should be noted that federal agencies (social security, passport agencies, and federal agency employers) do not recognize civil unions, and will not accept a certified copy of a civil union certificate as proof of a name change. We recommend you obtain a legal name change authorized through a court. For information on legal name changes, please see the following website: <http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/prose/10551.pdf>

NJ Drivers License, Registration, Title, & Other Motor Vehicle Documents:

Name changes on licenses, non-driver ID corrections and/or permits must be handled in person. Changes must be made within two weeks of the change. Visit any local MVC Agency or Regional Service Center. You will need to provide your original proof of name change and pay fee. For more information go to: <http://www.state.nj.us/mvc> or call 609.292.6500 or (toll-free in NJ) 888.486.3339

Passports:

Send a completed form DS-19, *Passport Amendment/Validation Application*, a certified copy of your marriage certificate or your name change court decree, and your current valid passport to the following address:

Charleston Passport Center, Attention: Amendments
1269 Holland Street, Charleston, SC 29405

Photocopies and notarized copies are not acceptable for passport purposes. There is no fee, unless you require expedited service. To download the form or for more information go to:

http://travel.state.gov/name_change.html

Social Security Cards:

To change the name shown on your card, you need to complete Form SS-5 and submit evidence of your identity and proof of name change. This can be done in person or by mail and it is free. Your card will have your new name but the same number as your old card. For additional information, locations, and to download the form, call 1-800-772-1213 go to their website at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov>