



Clerk's Office

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Changing Your Name Because of Marriage

Effective January 1, 2008, both the bride and the groom can document the legal name each will use after they are married on the Oregon Application, License, and Record of Marriage. The Oregon State Legislature passed House Bill 3120, which establishes the possible name combinations, and the right of the bride, as well as the groom, to change their legal name *at the time of the marriage*. Having this information on the marriage record will provide evidence of the legal name change for either party when updating DMV, SSA, bank, or other records.

The name(s) reported on the marriage record then become the sole legal name(s) for the bride or groom.

Any name change not reported on the marriage record at the time it is filed, including the bride taking the surname (last name) of the groom, will require a court order of legal name change.

Who can change his or her name?

Either the bride or the groom, or both, can legally change their surnames within limited choices, by reporting the new name on the marriage record. It is not required that the surname chosen be the same name for both parties.

When must the name be changed?

The Application, License and Record of Marriage form must be received with the new name. The information cannot be updated or changed after the record is accepted by the County Clerk for filing, without a court order.

How is the name changed?

The name(s) selected are reported under items 11 and 22 on the Application, License and Record of Marriage form (Form 45-4). The law limits the options for the surname to:

- retaining the surname prior to the marriage;
- changing the surname to the other party's surname; or,
- changing the surname to a combination of the bride's and groom's surnames, with a hyphen.

What if the name isn't changed?

If Item 11 and/or Item 22 is left blank on the Application, License and Record of Marriage, it will be presumed that party is retaining his or her current legal name listed on the form. The name listed in Items 1 or 12a of the marriage form will continue to be the sole legal name for the bride and/or groom, respectively. Any later change will require a formal name change through the courts.

What if I do want to change my name? How do I make the change?

Be sure to change your name on all of your identification, accounts and important documents. To change some of your identification papers- your Social Security card, for example – you must purchase a certified copy of your marriage certificate from the county in which the license was purchased.

After the marriage, the couple should notify employers, and certain governmental or financial agencies of the change in marital status. However, some agencies may require a certified copy of the marriage record. You will need to show a certified copy of your marriage certificate to change your name for most of the following agencies/purposes:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> driver's license | <input type="checkbox"/> mortgage company |
| <input type="checkbox"/> social security | <input type="checkbox"/> bank |
| <input type="checkbox"/> immigration | <input type="checkbox"/> landlord |
| <input type="checkbox"/> passport | <input type="checkbox"/> credit card |
| <input type="checkbox"/> insurance (car, homeowners, life, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| <input type="checkbox"/> vehicle registration | <input type="checkbox"/> employer |

License and marriage packets from Deschutes County include a form to request certified copies.
You may also contact us at (541) 388-6549.