



Changing Your Name in

CHICAGO

After planning a wedding, you've likely become a details expert. From tallying your guests, to getting out the invites, to seat assignments, there's a lot of minutiae that goes into getting married, and it doesn't end after you've said "I do." If you've opted to change your name, your to-do list just got a little longer. To keep it simple, we've mapped out everything you need to know to officially change your name in Chicago, Cook County and Illinois. Your marriage may already be official; here's how to make your new name official, too.



MARRIAGE LICENSE AND CERTIFICATE

Illinois does not automatically issue you a marriage certificate, and you'll need this certificate to change your name officially. To get a physical copy of your certificate, you have to request it. Here's the process from start to finish.

Before the wedding, you and your mate likely headed to one of six [Cook County locations](#) — in downtown Chicago, Skokie, Maywood, Rolling Meadows, Bridgeview or Markham — to snag a marriage license (with [valid identification](#)). Lucky for you, the marriage license was issued while you waited.

Post-ceremony, the officiant will sign the bottom portion of the marriage license, which is then mailed or delivered to the Cook County Clerk's office. The Clerk's office can issue you a marriage certificate, but only upon request (either online, in person or by phone). Make sure to request a few [certified legal copies](#) of your marriage certificate — you'll need them to change your name with several other organizations (outlined below).



Marriage license application documents needed: Completed marriage license application; valid identification (driver's license or passport will suffice).

Marriage license application cost: **\$60**

Marriage certificate documents needed: Completed [marriage certificate request form](#); signed marriage license.

Marriage certificate cost: **\$15** for the first legal copy; **\$4** for each additional copy.



SOCIAL SECURITY CARD

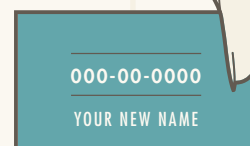
After you have your marriage certificate, you can move on to updating your Social Security card. This should be at the top of your list because some agencies may require your new Social Security card to officially change your name. Also, without this official name change, you could have trouble filing your tax return, according to the [Internal Revenue Service](#).

- Fill out the Social Security Administration's [Form SS-5](#).
- Mail or deliver in person the completed form (with the required documents, at right) to your [local Social Security office](#).

If you mail in your application and certificate, it's important to note that all documents must be originals or certified copies from the agency that issued them. These will be mailed back to you, along with your new card, in about 10 days, according to the Social Security Administration. Once you receive your new Social Security card, you'll notice it has the same Social Security number, along with your new name.

Documents needed: Completed Form SS-5; [certified](#) or [original](#) copy of your marriage certificate; photo ID and proof of citizenship (a U.S. birth certificate or a U.S. passport).

Cost: **\$0**



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DRIVER'S LICENSE

To change your name on your license, you'll want to head to your local [Illinois Department of Motor Vehicles \(DMV\)](#) office. You can only do this name-change in person. By law, you must update your driver's license within 10 days, according to the [Illinois Secretary of State's office](#). So make a plan to visit the DMV shortly after your honeymoon.

Documents needed: Current license; marriage certificate.

Cost: \$5



NEW TITLE

While you're at the DMV, update your car title, too. According to the Secretary of State, you'll need what's called a [corrected title](#). It's not as big of a deal as updating your license, but since a name change must be made in person, it's worth knocking out.

Documents needed: Completed VSD 190 [application](#); current driver's license; current title; marriage certificate.

Cost: \$15



VEHICLE REGISTRATION

You've got one more DMV to-do on your list — update your registration card. In order to do this, you'll need to first update your new name on your title. You'll use all of the same forms that you used when applying for a new title, along with your new, corrected title. Once completed, you should receive your new registration ID card in the mail.

Documents needed: Completed VSD 190 [application](#); current driver's license; corrected title; marriage certificate.

Cost: \$3



VOTER REGISTRATION

Update your Illinois voter registration by filling out the [Illinois Voter Registration application](#). Be sure to insert your new name on the application and your former name in Box 5 of the application. Then mail it or take it in person to the [Illinois County Clerk or Board of Election Commissioners](#) office. In the City of Chicago, that's 69 W. Washington St. #600, Chicago, IL 60602. Time is of the essence; you must register 30 days prior to an election to vote.



After you've updated the major Illinois items above, you'll be ready to move on to notifying your employers, insurance companies, doctors' offices, utilities and post office, to name a few. Check out our [master name-change checklist](#) to get help with those details, and you can get back to enjoying life as a newlywed.

