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**STATE OF IOWA**

**NAME CHANGE**

**MINOR PACKET**

**Control Number - IA-NAME-2**

This packet contains the following:

1. Instructions;
2. Forms List; and
3. Access to Iowa Law Summary.

**I. EXPLANATION OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME**

- A. In Iowa, an action for a court ordered Change of Name begins with the filing of a Petition in the District court. The Petition must contain certain information. The forms in this packet include the necessary information for a Minor Name Change in the State of Iowa.
- B. You can use this packet if:
- ▶ You are less than 18 years of age and have been a resident of the county in which you will file for the required amount of time as reflected in the law summary.
  - ▶ You have proper and reasonable cause for the requested change of name.
  - ▶ You are not changing your name to avoid debts or defraud creditors.

**II. WHAT FORMS ARE INCLUDED**

- A. Civil Cover Sheet - (IA-NC-100) This form requests the required information for the Court's use.
- B. Petition for Name Change - (IA-NC-201) This document states the reasons and other required details for your name change.
- C. Order for Name Change - (IA-NC-202) This is the final statement of the legalities and terms of your name change. Once this form is signed by the Judge and filed with the court, the name change is effective.
- D. Order for Hearing - (IA-NC-103) Notice that your Petition for Name Change has been filed and the matter has been set for hearing. This should be published, if required by the clerk, in the newspaper prior to the hearing.
- E. Written Consent - (IA-NC-204) This Document provides the written consent of any necessary individuals who are not party to the action.

If you did not order a completion package and need access to the download page again for any of the above forms, please check your email for a link to that will redisplay the page for you.

Note: This package contains forms for use throughout your State. However, some Counties, or Judges may require a different form, or modification to these forms. If this happens, please consult with your local Court Clerk. If you are required to use additional forms, please advise us by sending an e-mail to [orders@uslegalforms.com](mailto:orders@uslegalforms.com).

### **III. PROCEDURE FOR CHANGE OF NAME (MINOR) FOR THE STATE OF IOWA**

#### **A. Preliminary Note:**

1. The attached forms may be completed by:
  - a. Printing the forms and completing by hand. Use black ink and print neatly.
  - b. Printing the forms and completing using a typewriter.
  - c. By completing the forms on your computer using a word processing program and then printing the forms.
2. Use complete names and not initials. Check your spelling carefully, a misspelled word can delay your name change.
3. Print three (3) complete sets of forms.
4. All forms with a heading - the name of the court, the Petitioner's name, the case number, and the name of the document - require that the heading be completed. You will need to add the name of the court and the full name of the Petitioner. The "Action/Cause No." will be assigned by the court clerk at the time of filing.
5. Forms that require your signature and include a notary block **MUST** be signed in the presence of the notary or court clerk who will complete the acknowledgement. Use your complete name - first name, middle name, last name.
6. When a form is filed with the court, request the clerk "file-stamp" one copy of the form for your file.
7. A Law Summary is available and can be printed for your State. To do so, go to where you located this package and select the Law Summary link under the form title and print. Review the Law Summary before beginning the process of completing the forms.

#### **B. Consent - this package includes forms for various parties to consent to the name change. Iowa statutes specifically require consent of the following interested parties:**

1. Any Minor whose name is being changed and who is 14 - 17 years of age.
2. Any non-party parent of a minor whose name is to be changed.

The court may waive this requirement if it finds:

1. That the parent has abandoned the child;
2. That the parent has been ordered to contribute to the support of the child or to financially aid in the child's birth and has failed to do so without good cause; or
3. That the parent does not object to the name change after having been given due and proper notice.

If a court has ruled the parent has abandoned the child, take the court documents with you when you file. If there has been a failure to support, you will need certified copies of the support order.

C. Procedure

- Step 1: Complete all the forms using complete names - middle names instead of middle initials.
- Step 2: File the Petition in the District Court in the county in which you have been a resident and pay the appropriate fee.
- Step 3: After filing the Clerk will advise you how a hearing will be set and if publication of any notice is required. Follow the directions of the Clerk.
- Step 4: Appear as directed by the Clerk and present the Order to Change Name to the Court. At the hearing, any persons objecting to the requested Name Change will be heard by the Court; and the Court may examine, upon oath, the Petitioner(s) or other persons concerning the Petition.
- Step 5: If the petition includes or is filed on behalf of a minor child fourteen years of age or older, the child's written consent to the change of name of that child is required. If the petition includes or is filed on behalf of a minor child under fourteen, both parents as stated on the birth certificate of the minor child shall file their written consent to the name change. The form for Written Consent is found in Form 5. If one of the parents does not consent to the name change, a hearing shall be set on the petition on twenty days' notice to the non-consenting parent pursuant to the rules of civil procedure.
- Step 6: If the Court finds that it is right and proper to issue the Order Changing Name, prepare that Order using Form 3 and present it to the Court for signing thirty (30) days after the filing of the Petition.

Step 7: If a hearing is required because the Minor Petitioner is younger than fourteen (14) years of age, and one parent does not provide written consent, prepare the Order for Hearing in Form 4. At hearing, the Court may waive the consent requirement if it finds that the non-consenting parent has abandoned the child, the parent has been ordered to contribute to the support of the child or to financially aid in the child's birth and has failed to do so without good cause, or the parent does not object to the name change after having been given due and proper notice.

Step 8: Obtain a certified copy of the Order from the Clerk after it has been signed by the Judge. You are now ready to notify appropriate persons and governmental agencies of the change.

## **NOTIFICATION OF YOUR NAME CHANGE**

Now that you have completed the name change process and received your Order, Judgment or Decree of Name Change, it is very important that you immediately notify the necessary government agencies, business entities and individuals of your "new" name.

To assist in this process, we have prepared a comprehensive "name change notification package" for your state. To "Preview" and order this package, please use the following link:

<http://www.uslegalforms.com/ia/IA-9087.htm>

Good Luck with your new name! If we may be of assistance in the future, please contact Customer Service:

1-(877) 389-0141- 8:30-5:00 Central Time Zone

or

<http://www.uslegalforms.com/help/>

## **NOTE ABOUT COMPLETING THE FORMS**

The forms in this packet contain “form fields” created using Microsoft Word. “Form fields” facilitate completion of the forms using your computer. They do not limit your ability to print the form “in blank” and complete with a typewriter or by hand.

If you do not see the gray shaded form fields, go to the View menu, click on Toolbars, and then select Forms. This will open the forms toolbar. Look for the button on the forms toolbar that resembles a shaded letter “a”. Click in this button and the form fields will be visible.

The forms are locked which means that the content of the forms cannot be changed. You can only fill in the information in the fields.

If you need to make any changes in the body of the form, it is necessary for you to “unlock” or “unprotect” the form. **IF YOU INTEND TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE CONTENT, DO SO BEFORE YOU BEGIN TO FILL IN THE FIELDS. IF YOU UNLOCK THE DOCUMENT AFTER YOU HAVE BEGUN TO COMPLETE THE FIELDS, WHEN YOU RELOCK, ALL INFORMATION YOU ENTERED WILL BE LOST.** To unlock click on “Tools” in the Menu bar and then select “unprotect document”. You may then be prompted to enter a password. If so, the password is “uslf”. That is uslf **in lower case letters without the quotation marks**. After you make the changes relock the document before you begin to complete the fields.

After any required changes and re-protecting the document, click on the first form field and enter the required information. You will be able to navigate through the document from form field to form field using your tab key. Tab to a form field and insert your data. If problems, please let us know.

## **LAW SUMMARY**

You may access the law summary by going to this URL address:

<http://www.uslegalforms.com/ia/IA-NAME-2.htm>

## **DISCLAIMER**

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