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STATE OF TENNESSEE

NAME CHANGE

FAMILY PACKET

Control Number - TN-NAME-3

This packet contains the following:

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

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

- A. In Tennessee, an action for a court ordered Family Name Change begins with the filing of a Petition in either the Circuit, Probate, Chancery, or County court in the County in which the Petitioners reside. The Petition must contain certain information. The forms in this packet include the necessary information for a Family Name Change in the State of Tennessee.
- B. You can use this packet if:
 - ▶ You have proper and reasonable cause for the requested change of name.
 - ▶ You are not changing your name to avoid debts or defraud creditors.

NOTE: Some courts in Tennessee will not permit the filing of a Family Name Change Petition. If you discover this is the case after your forms are prepared and you attempt to file with the office of the Clerk, please advise and U.S. Legal Forms will assist you in obtaining the appropriate forms for individual name change actions.

II. **WHAT FORMS ARE INCLUDED**

- A. Petition for Change of Name - (TN-NC-300) This document states the reasons and other required details for your name change.
- B. Order of Name Change - (TN-NC-302) 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.
- C. Order for Hearing - (TN-NC-303) This document officially sets the matter for hearing.
- D. Affidavit for Name Change - (TN-NC-301) This document provides proof of the information provided in the Petition.

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.

III. **PROCEDURE FOR CHANGE OF NAME (FAMILY) FOR THE STATE OF TENNESSEE**

- 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 Two (2) 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.

Since the statutes in Tennessee allow for concurrent jurisdiction in the Circuit, Probate, Chancery, or County court, it will be necessary for you to contact the local Circuit Court Clerk's office and determine which is the appropriate court in your county. See the following link for a search for Clerk of the Court by County: http://www.tsc.state.tn.us/geninfo/INFO_OPT.htm

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 the end of 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. Procedure

- Step 1: Complete all the forms using complete names - middle names instead of middle initials.
- Step 2: File the Petition in the appropriate 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. We have

enclosed an Order for Hearing that is used by some courts to formally set the hearing on the name change petition.

- 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: Obtain a certified copy or copies 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.
- Step 6: Present a copy of the signed Order to Change Name to the State Registrar of Vital Records and request an amended birth certificate.
- Step 7: Upon signing of the Order to Change Name, the Minor Petitioner, if registered to vote, must change the voter's registration to the voter's new name and authorize the transfer of the previous registration information, including the voter's voting registration to the new name

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 “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 selecting “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

The law summary for this package may be located and printed from the following address:

<http://www.uslegalforms.com/tn/TN-NAME-3.htm>

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