



BALTIMORE COUNTY
MARYLAND

CHANGING YOUR NAME?

The Baltimore County Circuit Court Law Library has several sources that *may* help you learn how to legally change your name in Maryland. This guide is designed to point you to those sources. However, it is not an exhaustive list of all resources available on this topic. *This guide is not meant as legal advice, and the Law Library is not responsible for the accuracy or usefulness of this information or the utilization thereof.* By law (BOP §10-601, §10-101(h)) the Library staff can only provide access

to legal information; the staff must never give legal advice or interpret legal materials. It would be best to consult an attorney for further assistance.

The Law – Read the exact "letter of the law." The following are found in the first aisle of our Maryland law section (around the corner to the right just after you enter the library):

- Annotated Code of Maryland
Election Law Article §3-202, §3-304, §16-101, §16-201
Family Law Article § 7-105 (Divorce)
Health-General Article § 4-214 (Amendments to vital records)
Transportation Article §§ 11-137, 13-414(b), 13-118, 16-106, 16-810 (Driver's licenses)
- Code of Maryland Regulations
COMAR 11.17.09.04 (Driver's license) (Found in Vol. XIII-A or online at <http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/11/11.17.09.04.htm> [link confirmed 27 April 2006])

The Rules – The Maryland Rules of Procedure (found at the end of the Annotated Code of Maryland and at the Reference Desk) list the procedures that must be followed when performing certain legal actions:

- Md. Rule 15-901 (General provisions)
- Md. Rules 9-105(g) & 9-111(d) (Adoptions)

Forms & Commentary – Look at some sample forms and the accompanying commentary from legal publishers.

NOTE: These forms are designed to be samples only. The following books are all shelved behind the Reference Desk:

- Maryland Civil Procedure Forms. KFM 1730 .A65 .D54. Robert D. Klein. Lexis, 3rd ed., 2001. Volume 2, Title 15, pages 900-1 - 900-6. This book currently contains commentary and 3 forms: a petition for change of name; a notice for publication; and a certificate of publication.

- Maryland Domestic Relations Forms. KFM 1294 .A65.T9. Ann M. Turnbull & Joseph J. Wase. Michie, 2001. Chapter 6, pages 6-1– 6-12. Chapter 1, pages 1-56 – 1-57. Chapter 7, pages 7-9 – 7-11, 7-17, & 7-19 – 7-20. This book contains commentary and forms. Chapter 6 forms include a petition to change name; a notice; a certificate of publication; and an order for change of name. Chapter 1 form is a separation without property settlement agreement. Chapter 7 forms include petition for adoption, with father’s consent, revision of consent, & petition for adoption, without consent of natural parent.
- Maryland Family and Juvenile Law: Practice Manual and Forms. KFM 1294 .R44 2003. Data Trace Publishing, 2003. Chapter 10. This book currently includes commentary and brief overviews of family law (marriage, divorce, etc.) As well as many sample forms. Chapter 10 specifically deals with Change of name law and forms.
- Maryland Practice Forms. KFM 1268 .M3 2003. MICPEL, 2003. Pages 283-289 (general name change) and pages 257-260, 266-271, 276, & 280 (name change of a child). This book contains no commentary and 6 general name change forms: a petition for change of name; a motion for notice by posting in lieu of publication; an affidavit in support of petition for change of name and in support of motion for notice by posting in lieu of publication; an order permitting petitioner to dispense with notice by publication, and for posting; an order of posting; and an order for change of name. It also contains 4 forms for the name change of a child: a petition for change of name; a motion to waive publication; two orders to waive publication; and an order for change of name.
- Pleading Causes of Action in Maryland, 3rd ed. Plus supplements KFM 1396 .S21. Available at the Reference Desk. Paul Mark Sandler & James K. Archibald. MICPEL, 2004. Section 15.4, pages 703-706. This book currently contains commentary and one form, a petition for change of name.
- Practice Manual for the Maryland Lawyer. KFM 1738 .Z9.M3 1998. MICPEL, 1998. Pages 3-92 to 3-100. This book currently includes commentary and 4 forms: a complaint for change of name; an objection to name change; an affidavit in support of objection to name change; and an order (decree) for change of name.

Additional Resources – These additional sources may also help.

- Family Law Manual: Maryland. KFM 1294 .A6 .P31. William D. Paton & William C. Staley. Hanford Pub. Co. Page *CHI 7651*. (Name changes of minor children.) Shelved in the Maryland Law section.
- Maryland Divorce & Separation Law. KFM 1299 .M39 2003. Edited by Daniel F. Thomas. MICPEL, 8th ed., 2003. Pages 630-633. (Name changes of minor children.) Shelved at the library Reference Desk.

Electronic Resources

- Maryland Domestic Relations Forms – Name Change. Internet resource.
<http://www.courts.state.md.us/family/forms/namechange.html>
- Westlaw. Library Computer Center.
- LexisNexis. Library Computer Center.
- Maryland Rules and Laws online via the State Law Library. Internet resource
<http://www.lawlib.state.md.us/sources%20of%20maryland%20laws.htm>

Resources for Laypeople

- Nolo's Encyclopedia of Everyday Law, 3rd Edition. Aisle 6. LLP KF387.N65. pp. 14.27-14.32.

Professional Assistance – Find an attorney. While this Resource Guide can help you find legal information, seeking professional assistance ensures that you accomplish your goals completely and properly. The following resources may be used to seek professional help:

- Word of mouth – The best method of finding professional legal assistance is by asking family, friends, and neighbors.
- Martindale-Hubbel Law Directory – REF KF 190 .M3 & Reference Desk. This multivolume directory lists and grades many lawyers. Lawyers are listed by the city or towns where they practice. The current volumes for Maryland and the District of Columbia are kept at the Reference Desk, while the complete set resides in aisle 4 of the reference section.
- Yellow Pages – Look under “Attorney” in your local Yellow Pages.
- Pro Se Family Law Clinic – The clinic provides assistance on a first come, first serve basis. For current hours and further information, contact the clinic directly at 410-887-3446.