

Part 7: Divorce: Restoring your former name

Hello. This video discusses restoring your former name when you get divorced. If you changed your name when you got married, you can ask the court to restore or change your name back to your old name after your divorce. You have three options.

First, you can ask for the court to change your name back as part of your divorce case. The request can be included in your Complaint or Counter-Claim for Absolute Divorce, or in your Answer to your spouse's Complaint. We talk about complaints in Part 1 of this series and about counter-claims and answers in Part 2.

If you did not ask for a name change during your divorce, don't worry. If less than 18 months has passed since your divorce was finalized, you can use the second option, which is to file a Motion for Restoration of Former Name.

CHAPTER HEADING: MOTION FOR RESTORATION OF FORMER NAME

You can use form CC-DR-097 to ask the court to restore your former name. Put the same case number from your divorce case at the top of the form. You can change your name back to the name you used before you were married or to any other former name you formally used. It cannot be for any illegal, fraudulent, or immoral reason.

File the motion with the court that entered your divorce decree. The court may issue an order restoring your former name, or it may hold a hearing if it has questions. Don't worry; the court will not deny your request without a hearing.

If more than 18 months has passed since your divorce was finalized, or if you want to change your name to something other than a name you formally used before you got married, you'll have to use the third option. That is to file a Petition for Change of Name of an Adult.

CHAPTER HEADING: PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME OF AN ADULT

You can use form CC-DR-060. Unlike the other two options, this is a separate process from your divorce case. You'll need to pay a filing fee, but you may be eligible for a fee waiver based on your income. Learn more about this name change process at mdcourts.gov/namechange.

Those are the options for changing your name after your divorce. I hope this has been helpful.