

How do I change my name?

Information for victims of violence or abuse

There are instances where victims of violence or abuse may wish to change their identity in order to completely remove themselves from their abuser and ensure personal safety. The following information, obtained from the provincial/territorial legislation regarding name changes, applies to all requests for change of name. If an individual feels the need to change their name for personal safety reasons, they should include this information in their application and request that the presiding judge waive the requirements that apply to publication of intent to change name and consent from a spouse or parent. None of the provinces stipulate that a lawyer must be consulted to facilitate a name change. Applicants may wish to consult a lawyer regarding their individual situation.

The procedures for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have not yet been compiled. For information in these regions, please contact the appropriate office of Vital Statistics:

Northwest Territories

Registrar General

Vital Statistics

Department of Health & Social Services

Government of the Northwest Territories

Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0

Tel: 1-800-661-0830

Nunavut

Vital Statistics

Department of Health and Social Services

Government of Nunavut

Bag 003 Rankin Inlet, Nunavut X0C 0G0

Tel: (867) 645-8002

Fax: (867) 645-8092

[British Columbia](#) – [Alberta](#) – [Saskatchewan](#) – [Manitoba](#) – [Ontario](#) – [Quebec](#)
– [New Brunswick](#) – [Nova Scotia](#) – [Prince Edward Island](#) – [Newfoundland
and Labrador](#) – [Yukon](#)

Change of Name in British Columbia

Relevant Statute: http://www.qp.gov.bc.ca/statreg/stat/N/96328_01.htm

Governmental help site: <http://www.vs.gov.bc.ca/name/index.html>

Who is eligible to change their name?

- Applicants must be at least 19 years old and have resided in British Columbia for at least 3 months prior to the date of application.

Are there additional conditions that must be met to change a name?

Most jurisdictions have specific qualifications. In general, the name should not cause confusion and must not be used for fraudulent, misrepresentational or other improper purposes. In most jurisdictions changes of name are published, but the publication requirement may be waived in certain cases.

- Applicants will be required to have their fingerprints taken at their local police office or RCMP detachment. They will be forwarded with the application form and all related fees and documents to Victoria for processing. Following Registration of the Name Change, the envelope containing the fingerprints will be forwarded to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (in Ottawa) to conduct a criminal record check. A person intending to make an application for a change of name must give notice of that intention by publishing, within the period of 2 months prior to filing the application, a notice including the person's present and intended names. The notice must be published in one issue of the Gazette and in one issue of a newspaper circulating in the district in which he or she is resident. Applicants must seek an exemption from the Director if they wish to be exempt from publication.

How does someone change their name?

In the province where they reside, the applicant must make an application for a change of name pursuant to *The Name Act*.

- In British Columbia, application forms can be obtained from [Vital Statistics Agency offices](#) or requested by phone at 250-952-2681 or 604-660-2937,

fax at 250-952-2527 or email to HLTH.CNFORMS@gems8.gov.bc.ca.
The application is filed with the director.

What information is required for the application?

- An applicant for a change of name must pay the prescribed fees to the director and must file with the director an application containing all of the following:
 - a statement of all relevant facts;
 - an affidavit verifying the application;
 - the consent of every person whose consent is necessary under the Name Act;
 - proof of publication of the notice;
 - further documentary evidence or information required by the director;
 - the name and address of every person whose name will be changed because of a change of name of the applicant.

Are there restrictions on choices for a change of name?

In general, the name must be written entirely in characters of the Roman alphabet, the surname can contain no more than two names hyphenated or combined, and the changed name must consist of at least one given name and a surname.

- The choice will be refused if the name that the applicant seeks to adopt might reasonably cause mistake or confusion or be a cause of embarrassment or confusion to any other person, or change of name is sought for an improper purpose or is on any other ground objectionable.

What are the fees for changing a name?

- Initial application cost is \$137.00. Each supplementary individual included in the application is an additional \$27.00. Record searches are \$27.00 for each three year period searched.

How to get a new birth certificate once the change of name is completed?

- Once you receive notification that the change of name is complete you can apply to the province of birth for a birth certificate in the new name. It is advisable to include a photocopy of the change of name along with the Application for Service Form.

What is the fee for a certificate?

- One certificate is included in the application fee. Additional copies are \$27.00 each

What size/types of certificates are available?

- Either a small certificate (9.5 X 6.4 cm) or large certificate (21.6 X 17.8 cm) are available.

Is there a fee for rush delivery?

- There is a rush charge of \$60.00. This ensures that the certificate is produced within 24 hours and couriered to the applicant.
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Change of Name in Alberta

Relevant Statute: <http://www.qp.gov.ab.ca/documents/acts/C07.CFM>

Governmental help site:

http://www3.gov.ab.ca/gs/information/vs/name_change.cfm

Who is eligible to change their name?

- A legal change of name can only be processed in Alberta for residents of Alberta. The applicant must be 18 years of age or older.

Are there additional conditions that must be met to change a name?

Most jurisdictions have specific qualifications. In general, the name should not cause confusion and must not be used for fraudulent, misrepresentational or other improper purposes. In most jurisdictions changes of name are published, but the publication requirement may be waived in certain cases.

- Conditions are listed on the application form. It is advisable to contact a registry agent or the [Vital Statistics office](#) with your particular situation before beginning.

How does someone change their name?

In the province where they reside, the applicant must make an application for a change of name pursuant to *The Name Act*.

- Application forms can be obtained through a [registry agent](#). Applications are completed by the applicant and processed through the registry agent. Applicants cannot be submitted to Vital Statistics directly.

What information is required for the application?

- Depending on the circumstances, presentation of identification, court orders, consents, dispensations, statutory declarations, proof of marital status or custody orders may be required.

Are there restrictions on choices for a change of name?

In general, the name must be written entirely in characters of the Roman alphabet, the surname can contain no more than two names hyphenated or combined, and the changed name must consist of at least one given name and a surname.

- The Director may refuse registration of a proposed change of name if in the Director's opinion the proposed name might reasonably cause confusion, be a cause of embarrassment to any other person, or be used in a manner that could defraud or mislead the public.

What are the fees for changing a name?

- The government fee is \$120.00, registry agents may also charge a service fee.

How to get a new birth certificate once the change of name is completed?

- Once you receive notification that the change of name is complete you can apply to the province of birth for a birth certificate in the new name. It is advisable to include a photocopy of the change of name along with the Application for Service Form.

What is the fee for a certificate?

- One certificate is included in the application fee. Additional copies are \$20.00 each.

What size/types of certificates are available?

- Either a framing certificate (21.6 X 17.8 cm) or certified photographic print (21.5 X 28 cm) are available.

Is there a fee for rush delivery?

- There are no stated provisions for rush delivery.
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Change of Name in Saskatchewan

Relevant Statute:

<http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/documents/English/Statutes/Statutes/C6-1.pdf>

Governmental help site:

http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/ps_change_name_regis.html

Who is eligible to change their name?

- Applicants must be at least 18 years, a resident in Saskatchewan and have actually resided in Saskatchewan for at least three consecutive months in the 12-month period preceding the date of his or her application, and be legally entitled to remain in Canada.

Are there additional conditions that must be met to change a name?

Most jurisdictions have specific qualifications. In general, the name should not cause confusion and must not be used for fraudulent, misrepresentational or other improper purposes. In most jurisdictions changes of name are published, but the publication requirement may be waived in certain cases.

- If the applicant is married, they must provide an affidavit stating that the spouses are living separate and apart from each other, or their spouse must be notified. The change of name must be advertised in the Saskatchewan Gazette. There is a fee of \$10.70 for advertising the change of name (for the first name on the application. Subsequent names cost \$3.21 each).

How does someone change their name?

In the province where they reside, the applicant must make an application for a change of name pursuant to *The Name Act*.

- Application forms can be obtained by contacting Vital Statistics, Saskatchewan Health via telephone at 306-787-3092 (toll free 1-800-458-1179 in Sask. only), or fax at 306-787-2288. Applications are submitted to Vital Statistics.

What information is required for the application?

- Applications must include:
 - proof of residency for yourself and everyone whose name;
 - appears on the application, usually consisting of copies of your Saskatchewan health services card (s);
 - an official birth certificate for each person whose name is to be changed if born in Canada or the United States; if born elsewhere, official certificates of Canadian Citizenship or official Immigration documents must be submitted;

- an official marriage certificate, if you are married;
- an official death certificate for your spouse, if you are widowed;
- an official or certified photocopy of the Decree Absolute or Certificate of Divorce, if you are divorced;
- an official or certified photocopy of any Agreement, Judgment, Decree Nisi or other Court Order granted with respect to the lawful custody of any child(ren) named in the application.
- As part of the change of name application, you will need to complete an affidavit of qualifications and bona fides and sign it before a Notary Public, Justice of the Peace or Commissioner for Oaths in and for Saskatchewan declaring that the statements made in the application for change of name are true.

Are there restrictions on choices for a change of name?

In general, the name must be written entirely in characters of the Roman alphabet, the surname can contain no more than two names hyphenated or combined, and the changed name must consist of at least one given name and a surname.

- The director may, by order, annul a change of name or a registration made pursuant to the change of Name Act if satisfied that a change of name has been obtained by fraud or misrepresentation.

What are the fees for changing a name?

- Initial application cost is \$125.00. This does not include the advertising fees of \$10.70 for the first name on the application, and \$3.21 per subsequent names. Record searches are \$20.00 for each three year period searched.

How to get a new birth certificate once the change of name is completed?

- Once you receive notification that the change of name is complete you can apply to the province of birth for a birth certificate in the new name. It is advisable to include a photocopy of the change of name along with the Application for Service Form.

What is the fee for a certificate?

- One certificate is included in the application fee. Additional copies are \$20.00 each.

What size/types of certificates are available?

- Only one size (21.5 x 35.4 cm) is available.

Is there a fee for rush delivery?

- \$30.00 for same day service. The certificates or photocopies will be available for pick-up same day during regular business hours or will be forwarded by courier to the applicant (additional cost).
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Change of Name in Manitoba

Relevant Statute: <http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/ccsm/c050e.php>

Who is eligible to change their name?

- Applicant must have resided in the province for at least three months immediately before the date of application and must be either 18 or more years of age; married; in a common-law relationship; or is a parent with custody of the child.

Are there additional conditions that must be met to change a name?

Most jurisdictions have specific qualifications. In general, the name should not cause confusion and must not be used for fraudulent, misrepresentational or other improper purposes. In most jurisdictions changes of name are published, but the publication requirement may be waived in certain cases.

- The change of name must be advertised in the Manitoba Gazette, at the expense of the applicant. The Director may dispense with publication where it would cause undue hardship for the individual; it would be contrary to the public interest; or the applicant has been commonly known under the surname applied for.

How does someone change their name?

In the province where they reside, the applicant must make an application for a change of name pursuant to *The Name Act*.

- Application forms can be obtained by contacting Vital Statistics, via telephone at 204-945-3701 (toll free 1-800-282-8069 in Manitoba only), fax at 204-948-3128, or email to vitalstats@cca.gov.mb.ca. Applications are submitted to Vital Statistics.

What information is required for the application?

- An application shall include;
 - present and proposed name in full;
 - the date of birth, place of birth and parents' names of the applicant and of all persons whose names are to be changed;

- if the applicant is married, the full name before marriage of the applicant's spouse and the date and place of marriage;
- if the applicant is cohabiting in a common-law relationship, the full name before entry into the common-law relationship of the applicant's common-law partner, the date the common-law relationship commenced and whether the common-law relationship is registered in any other jurisdiction;
- the length of the applicant's residence in Manitoba, and the applicant's current address;
- all consents required under this Act or a certified copy of any court order dispensing with consent;
- the reason for the proposed change of name;
- an affidavit of qualification and bona fides signed by the applicant;
- evidence satisfactory to the director that any person requiring notification has been notified;
- information regarding previous legal changes of name under a Change of Name Act;
- such further documentary evidence or information as the director may require.

Are there restrictions on choices for a change of name?

In general, the name must be written entirely in characters of the Roman alphabet, the surname can contain no more than two names hyphenated or combined, and the changed name must consist of at least one given name and a surname.

- The application can be refused if: the requirements of The Change of Name Act are not met; the director is of the opinion that the proposed name might reasonably cause mistake or confusion to any other person; the director is of the opinion that the change of name is sought for an improper purpose or is on any other ground objectionable; or the director is of the opinion that the applicant has made frequent changes of name.

What are the fees for changing a name?

- Initial application cost is \$100.00. Each supplementary individual included in the application is an additional \$50.00. Record searches are \$25.00.

How to get a new birth certificate once the change of name is completed?

- Once you receive notification that the change of name is complete you can apply to the province of birth for a birth certificate in the new name. It is advisable to include a photocopy of the change of name along with the Application for Service Form.

What is the fee for a certificate?

- One certificate is included in the application fee. Additional copies are \$25.00 each.

What size/types of certificates are available?

- Either framing certificates or wallet sizes are available.

Is there a fee for rush delivery?

- There are no stated provisions for rush delivery.
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Change of Name in Ontario

Relevant Statute: http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Statutes/English/90c07_e.htm#P319_34522

Governmental help site:
http://www.cbs.gov.on.ca/mcbs/english/change_name.htm

Who is eligible to change their name?

- A person at least sixteen years of age who has been ordinarily resident in Ontario for at least one year immediately before making the application may apply to the Registrar General to change his or her forename or surname or both.

Are there additional conditions that must be met to change a name?

Most jurisdictions have specific qualifications. In general, the name should not cause confusion and must not be used for fraudulent, misrepresentational or other improper purposes. In most jurisdictions changes of name are published, but the publication requirement may be waived in certain cases.

- The chosen name must have both a forename and a surname. An application shall be accompanied by a police records check that is prepared and certified by an employee of an Ontario police force. The change of name must be advertised in the Ontario Gazette, unless the change of name is to be kept confidential to prevent significant harm to the person to whose name the application relates.

How does someone change their name?

In the province where they reside, the applicant must make an application for a change of name pursuant to *The Name Act*.

- Applications can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Registrar General via telephone, 1-800-461-2156 or 416-325-8305.

What information is required for the application?

- An application shall include;
 - All birth certificates and previous change of name certificates of each person whose name is to be changed.
 - A statement by a guarantor who knows the applicant and can confirm that the applicant has lived in Ontario for at least one year prior to the application date.
 - A marriage certificate, a divorce certificate, an annulment certificate or a death certificate of spouse, or joint declaration of conjugal relationship, if you elect to change your name.
 - Proof of notice to your spouse if you are married and are formally changing your name.
 - Proof of custody and written consent from all those who have custody if you are changing your child's name.
 - Proof of notice to every person who is lawfully entitled to have access to the child.
 - Written consent of the child, if the child is 12 to 18 years old.
 - The required fee.
 - Other documents may be required, depending on the circumstances.

Are there restrictions on choices for a change of name?

In general, the name must be written entirely in characters of the Roman alphabet, the surname can contain no more than two names hyphenated or combined, and the changed name must consist of at least one given name and a surname.

- If the Registrar General believes on reasonable grounds that an applicant seeks the change of name for an improper purpose, the Registrar General shall refuse the application.

What are the fees for changing a name?

- Initial application cost is \$137.00. Five year record searches are \$25.00

How to get a new birth certificate once the change of name is completed?

- Once you receive notification that the change of name is complete you can apply to the province of birth for a birth certificate in the new name. It

is advisable to include a photocopy of the change of name along with the Application for Service Form.

What is the fee for a certificate?

- One certificate is included in the application fee. Additional copies are between \$15.00 - \$22.00 each, depending on size.

What size/types of certificates are available?

- Either a certificate (17.7 x 21 cm) or a certified copy (21.6 x 35.6 cm) are available.

Is there a fee for rush delivery?

- \$15.00 for same day service. This service is available only at [public counters](#).
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Change of Name in Quebec

Relevant Statute: <http://www.canlii.org/qc/regu/c.c.q.r3/whole.html>

Governmental help site:

http://www.etatcivil.gouv.qc.ca/ENGLISH/Inf_Chge.htm

Who is eligible to change their name?

- Persons applying to the Registrar of Civil Status for a change of name must be Canadian citizens of full age and have been living in Quebec for at least one year.

Are there additional conditions that must be met to change a name?

Most jurisdictions have specific qualifications. In general, the name should not cause confusion and must not be used for fraudulent, misrepresentational or other improper purposes. In most jurisdictions changes of name are published, but the publication requirement may be waived in certain cases.

- Change of name must be advertised by applicant, in both the Gazette officielle du Québec and a local newspaper.

How does someone change their name?

In the province where they reside, the applicant must make an application for a change of name pursuant to *The Name Act*.

- All applications for a change of name must be made in writing to the Registrar of Civil Status by means of a form. The payment must accompany the application. Application forms can be obtained through a request by [mail](#), or via telephone, 1 800 567-3900.

What information is required for the application?

- An application to change the name of a person of full age must include the following information:
 - the applicant's name, as recorded on the act of birth, the name applied for and the name being used on the date on which the application is submitted;
 - the applicant's sex;
 - the applicant's date and place of birth and the place where the birth was registered;
 - the applicant's address on the date on which the application is submitted and the number of years the applicant has been living in Québec;
 - the date on which the applicant, if born outside Canada, became a Canadian citizen;
 - the name of the applicant's father and mother;
 - the applicant's marital status and, if the applicant is married, the spouse's name and the date and place of their marriage;
 - the names of the applicant's children, if any, as well as their date of birth and the name of each child's other parent;
 - if the applicant's name has been changed following a judicial or administrative decision, the applicant's name before that decision or, if a change of name was refused, the reasons for the refusal; and
 - the reasons for which the applicant is applying for a change of name.
 - a copy of the acts of birth, marriage and death referred to in the application, where they were drawn up outside Québec;
 - a copy of the certificates of Canadian citizenship of the applicant and of the minor child for whom the change of name is applied for, if they were born outside Canada;
 - a copy of the applicant's absolute decree of divorce or certificate of divorce, if the applicant is divorced;

- a copy of the judgment declaring the nullity of the applicant's marriage, where applicable;
- a copy of the previous decisions changing the names of the applicant and of the minor child for whom the change of name is applied for, if their names have been changed before; and
- if the minor child for whom the change of name is applied for has a tutor, a copy of the judgment appointing the tutor or, if the tutor was appointed by will or by a declaration filed with the Public Curator in accordance with article 200 of the Civil Code of Québec, a copy of the will or declaration.

Are there restrictions on choices for a change of name?

In general, the name must be written entirely in characters of the Roman alphabet, the surname can contain no more than two names hyphenated or combined, and the changed name must consist of at least one given name and a surname.

- No explicit restrictions, changes are subject to judicial approval.

What are the fees for changing a name?

- Initial application cost is \$125.00. Each supplementary child is \$25.00. The notices in the Gazette officielle du Québec cost \$76.00.

How to get a new birth certificate once the change of name is completed?

- Once you receive notification that the change of name is complete you can apply to the province of birth for a birth certificate in the new name. It is advisable to include a photocopy of the change of name along with the Application for Service Form.

What is the fee for a certificate?

- One certificate is included in the application fee. Additional copies are \$10.00 each.

What size/types of certificates are available?

- Information not provided

Is there a fee for rush delivery?

- There are no stated provisions for rush delivery.
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Change of Name in New Brunswick

Relevant Statute: <http://www.gnb.ca/acts/acts/c-02-001.htm>

Governmental help site: <http://www.gnb.cha/0379/change-e.asp>

Who is eligible to change their name?

- Applicants must be 19 years of age or older, or have been married.

Are there additional conditions that must be met to change a name?

Most jurisdictions have specific qualifications. In general, the name should not cause confusion and must not be used for fraudulent, misrepresentational or other improper purposes. In most jurisdictions changes of name are published, but the publication requirement may be waived in certain cases.

- If the applicant is married, the application must contain either a written acknowledgement on a form provided by the Registrar General by the person's spouse of notice of the application, a statutory declaration on a form provided by the Registrar General that the spouses are living separate and apart, or an affidavit of service showing that written notice of the application has been served personally on the applicant's spouse. Once granted, the name change will be advertised by the Registrar General in The Royal Gazette.

How does someone change their name?

In the province where they reside, the applicant must make an application for a change of name pursuant to *The Name Act*.

- Applications can be obtained from the Registrar General of Vital Statistics, Change of Name Section via fax, (506) 453-3245 or by email to france.levesque-cormier@gnb.ca

What information is required for the application?

- An application to change a registered name shall include:
 - the registered name of the applicant and the proposed name,
 - a certified extract of the birth registration of the applicant that discloses the registration number, the date of birth, the place of birth, the sex at birth and the names of the natural or adoptive parents, unless the Registrar General is satisfied that the extract cannot be provided,
 - if the certified extract referred to in paragraph (b) cannot be provided,

- the date and place of birth of the applicant,
- the applicant's sex at birth, and the names of the applicant's natural parents, or, if applicable, the adoptive parents,
- the marital status of the applicant,
- if the applicant is not at least nineteen years of age and is not or has not been married but is a parent with lawful custody of a child,
 - the registered name of the child,
 - the date and place of birth of the child, and
 - a statement that the applicant is a parent with lawful custody of the child;
- the applicant's present address and the applicant's addresses for the twelve-month period immediately preceding the application,
- the applicant's occupation,
- full particulars of any conviction of the applicant under the Criminal Code (Canada) in respect of which the applicant has not received a pardon,
- full particulars of any action continuing in the court or in The Court of Appeal of New Brunswick against the applicant,
- full particulars of any previous changes of the applicant's name,
- the reasons for applying for a change of registered name,
- a statement that the information contained in the application is true and that the application is made in good faith and for no improper purpose,
- a declaration by a sponsor that
 - verifies the identity of the applicant, and
 - states that the sponsor has known the applicant for at least two years, and
- any document or other evidence that is prescribed or that is required by the Registrar General

Are there restrictions on choices for a change of name?

In general, the name must be written entirely in characters of the Roman alphabet, the surname can contain no more than two names hyphenated or combined, and the changed name must consist of at least one given name and a surname.

- The application will not be granted if use of the proposed new name could cause mistake or confusion (for example, if the application was for the name of a person already well-known). It shall be refused if the change is sought for fraudulent, misrepresentational or other unlawful purposes (for

example, if a change of name was sought to avoid a court order to pay child support, or to avoid criminal charges or financial obligations).

What are the fees for changing a name?

- The Fees vary depending on the type and number of changes requested in the same immediate family. In general, the fee for a change of name is \$125.00 for a surname change or \$100.00 for a given name change, plus \$25.00 for a long form birth certificate required by law. Applicants should check with the Change of Name Office for details.

How to get a new birth certificate once the change of name is completed?

- Once you receive notification that the change of name is complete you can apply to the province of birth for a birth certificate in the new name. It is advisable to include a photocopy of the change of name along with the Application for Service Form.

What is the fee for a certificate?

- One certificate is included in the application fee

What size/types of certificates are available?

- Information not provided.

Is there a fee for rush delivery?

- There are no stated provisions for rush delivery.
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