

Checklist

Name Change of Minor

Filing Fees

Court Costs: \$200.00

* Additional costs may be incurred for certified mail service or additional fees

Requirements

You may apply for a name change **only** if the minor has been a Belmont County resident for the past 60 days.

The Process

The documents listed below must be prepared by the applicant or attorney, and submitted to the Court for filing, along with the filing fee. Once the documents have been approved for filing by the Court, the Court will do one of the following:

- If **both natural parents' consents are provided**, the Court may dispense with a hearing and make a ruling on the application. Copies of the Judgment Entry will be mailed to the applicant upon approval.
- If **both natural parents' consents are not provided**, the Court will set the application for a formal in-person hearing. The applicant will be required to appear. The non-consenting parent will be served with notice of the hearing.

All hearings are set approximately 6 weeks from the date of filing. The Court will issue a Judgment Entry Setting Hearing and Ordering Notice, directing how service on the non-consenting parent will be performed.

- If the non-consenting parent is to be served by certified mail or by publication, the Court will issue service.
- If a parent or alleged father's whereabouts are unknown, the Court will publish notice of the hearing, at the applicant's expense, to the parent or alleged father who has not consented in a newspaper of general circulation in Belmont County, one time at least 30 days before the hearing.

The Court reserves the right to require additional documentation be submitted to support the name change, require a criminal background check, or hold a formal hearing on the application.

Note:

You must list the individual's full name on all paperwork (first, middle and last). No initials may be used.

Initial Filing

- Application for Change of Name of Minor (Form 21.2)
- Photocopy of minor's Birth Certificate
- Photocopy of minor's Driver's License or State ID (if any) (driver's license number, issuance date and expiration date must be redacted)
- Photocopy of minor's Social Security Card (social security number must be redacted)
- Affidavit in Support of Application for Change of Name of Minor (Form 21.02)
 - This must be notarized by a Notary Public before being submitted for filing (Court staff cannot notarize documents)
- Judgment Entry Changing Name of Minor (Form 21.3)
- Waiver of Notice of Hearing and Consent to Change of Name of Minor (Form 21.4)
 - Both parents of the minor must sign this waiver to dispense with a hearing on the application

If both parents' consents are not provided with the application, the following must be filed:

- Judgment Entry Setting Hearing and Ordering Notice (Form 21.03)
- Notice of Hearing on Change of Name (Form 21.5)

If Requesting the Name Change to be Confidential:

The law requires very specific criteria be met in order for someone to qualify for a confidential name change. The applicant must provide proof that it would jeopardize the applicant's or minor's personal safety to have the name change on the public record. Please refer to R.C. 2717.11 to determine if you meet the requirements.

In addition to the forms required for *initial filing* above, the documents listed below must also be submitted, along with any required attachments. The Judge will review all of the documents and make a determination as to whether it qualifies as a confidential name change. If so, the Court will contact the applicant or attorney to set a hearing, if determined necessary.

- Application to Waive Publication Requirement/Seal File and Judgment Entry Waiving Publication (Form 21.6)