

How to Legally Change Your Name in the State of Maryland

1. Visit the website for the circuit court office of the county in which you primarily reside (the county in which you list your permanent address with the school, payroll, taxes, etc.),
2. Locate and print off the forms for a legal name change for an adult. If you are under 18, you will need to print out the legal name change forms for minors, and will need parental consent.
3. Fill these forms out completely, and turn them in (some counties allow mail-ins, but you may need to turn them in, in-person). You will need to pay a filing fee at the time of submitting the forms. (This varies from around \$70 to \$200. For reference, the fee in St. Mary's County is \$135.) Note that you should put "gender reassignment" or "gender change" as the reason for changing your name. Otherwise, you are less likely to have a name change granted.
4. You will need to publish this name change in a county newspaper. The papers in which you can publish it, and the duration of time for which you must publish it vary from county to county. The court will give you a copy of the form to turn into the newspaper for publication, and will most likely print the reason that you gave the court for the name change. You will have to pay the newspaper to run the notice.
5. If you do not want to publish your name change publicly, you may file a petition to waive that requirement. You must include the name, state, and county of the court AND your current name, address, and contact information (as you do on the name change order you filed). You should also include the reason you want to waive the publication requirement, and sign the petition.
6. Usually within four (4) weeks or so, the orders are processed, and you will receive two (2) signed and sealed court name change orders in the mail. Typically, if you want more official copies, you can request those when you first turn in your forms, and pay an extra fee.
7. To change your name with any organization, office, group, documentation, etc., you will need to present this court order to whoever is in charge of their personal information and documentation.