



SHOULD I CHANGE MY NAME?
FAMILY CODE 306.5

Changing your name or not changing your name is an important life decision. The choice you make when applying for your Marriage License is **permanent**. After a marriage certificate is registered by the local registrar, the certificate **shall not** be amended to add a new name or change the name adopted.

Your name cannot be easily changed **after** the ceremony unless you petition Superior Court for a change of name. This process can be costly and time consuming. The choice is yours, so make an informed decision!

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING

- Neither party is required to change his or her name
- Parties to a marriage are not required to have the same name
- Parties to a marriage cannot change their first name
- One party or both parties to a marriage may elect to change the middle or last names
- A certified copy of a marriage certificate containing the new name, or retaining the former name, constitutes proof that the new name or retention of the former name is legal

If you are unsure about your decision, consult with a private attorney **before** applying for your Marriage License. County Clerk staff cannot provide information on how to complete the license as it relates to changing your name or not changing your name. This is a personal choice that requires careful consideration to obtain the outcome you desire.

I acknowledge that I have been informed and understand the information above that was presented and explained to me.

1st Party Signature

Date

2nd Party Signature

Date

48-0008-May-19



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