Change an Adult's Name – Mendocino County

These instructions are to get a court order for a name change for an adult (18 or older). But you don't always need a court order. And in some cases, the steps are a little bit different. To figure out exactly what the right steps are for your situation, including gender recognition cases, answer a few questions online.

Fill out the forms online!!
Use a computer program to help you with all the forms. And you can e-file your forms after if you want.
➡Take me to Online Program

FILL OUT COURT FORMS and CHOOSE A NEWSPAPER

- ☐ **MNC-110-local:** *Declaration re: Change of Name*
- ☐ **NC-100:** *Petition for Change of Name*
- ☐ **NC-110**: *Attachment to Petition for Change of Name*
- ☐ **NC-120**: *Order to Show Cause for Change of Name*. Write down the newspaper where you will publish (see information on the back). You can't switch newspapers later.
- ☐ **NC-130:** *Decree Changing Name* (just fill out the top boxes and #3)
- ☐ If you cannot afford the fees, ask the court to waive them: **FW-001** (fill out completely) and **FW-003** (fill out #1, #3, & court & case information, & write name & case number on pages 2 &3)

START YOUR CASE WITH THE COURT

Make 1 copy of documents—2 copies of NC-120—and turn them in at:

Ukiah courthouse: room 107, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Fort Bragg courthouse: clerk's window in the lobby, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

- The clerk will stamp & return copies & write your court date on the NC-120.
- 1 set of copies is for you.
- The extra copy of the NC-120 is for the newspaper.

PUBLISH THE NC-120 IN THE NEWSPAPER, 1 per week for 4 weeks in a row

Take your stamped NC-120 to the newspaper. You must complete publication before your court date. The court cannot waive the newspaper's fee.

GET PROOF OF PUBLICATION FROM THE NEWSPAPER.
Turn it in to the court before your court date.

GO TO YOUR COURT DATE

If the judge agrees to your name change, the judge will sign the **NC-130:** *Decree Changing Name*

GET A CERTIFIED COPY OF YOUR *DECREE CHANGING NAME*

You will need it to change your legal documents, like your birth certificate and driver's license. You will have to make those changes with whatever agency is in charge of the legal document. In California, the Department of Public Health changes birth certificates; you will need their form VS-23.

Mendocino County newspapers approved by the court

Contact the paper for exact cost and for publication deadlines.

Anderson Valley Advertiser
P.O. Box 459
Boonville, CA 95415
1411 Hwy 128, #B
(707) 895-3016
Fax: (707) 895-3355
Email: editor@theava.com
Estimated cost: $70

Mendocino Beacon
690 S. Main Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
(707) 964-5642
Fax: (707) 964-0424
Email:
classads@advocate-news.com
Estimated cost: $140

Ukiah Daily Journal
617 S. State Street
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 468-3500
Fax: (707) 468-5780
Estimated cost: $186

Fort Bragg Advocate-News
690 S. Main Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
(707) 964-5642
Fax: (707) 964-0424
Email:
classads@advocate-news.com
Estimated cost: $140

Willits News
617 S. State Street
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 468-3500
Fax (707)-459-1664
Email: legals@willitsnews.com
Estimated cost: $174

For more information, visit our webpage on name change.

Gender recognition as part of or separate from a name change request

If you're changing your name to match your gender identity, you do not have to publish your name change request in the newspaper, so you can skip that step on page 1.

To make sure you're following the right instructions, choose below what best fits your situation. It will take you to the California Court's Self-Help Guide. The forms and instructions will work in Mendocino County. And you can use the rest of this sheet for information specific to Mendocino.

- I want to change my name to match my gender identity
- I want to change my name and get an order recognizing my gender
- I need an order recognizing my gender identity but do not need to change my name