



The Name Equality Act of 2007

AB 102
(Chapter 567, Statutes of 2007)

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**California Office of Vital Records
M.S. 5103
P.O. Box 997410
Sacramento, CA 95899-7410
Telephone: (916) 445-2684
California Relay: 711/1-800-735-2929
www.cdph.ca.gov**

January 2009

The Name Equality Act of 2007

What is the Name Equality Act?

The Name Equality Act of 2007 (AB 102, Chapter 567, Statutes of 2007) allows one or both applicants for a California marriage license to elect to change the middle or last names by which each party wishes to be known after solemnization of the marriage.

What should the public know about the new law?

- Effective 01/01/2009, one party or both parties to a marriage may elect to change the middle or last names by which that party wishes to be known after solemnization of the marriage. Each party applying for a marriage license **may** choose to include on their marriage license the **new name** in the spaces provided on the marriage license application without intent to defraud. Changing one's name through this process can only be done at the time the marriage license is issued by the County Clerk or authorized Notary Public, as applicable.
- Each party to the marriage **may** adopt any of the following **middle or last names**:
 - The current last name of the other spouse.
 - The last name of either spouse given at birth.
 - A name combining into a single last name **all or a segment of the current last name or the last name of either spouse given at birth**.
 - A hyphenated combination of last names.
- Parties to the marriage **may not** change their **first name** on the marriage license. Persons desiring to change their first name must do so by obtaining a court ordered name change through the superior court, pursuant to Title 8 (commencing with Section 1275) of Part 3 of the Code of Civil Procedure.
- Parties to the marriage are not required to change their name. Persons who have legal concerns or questions regarding their decision to include a new name or not to include a new name on the marriage license should seek legal advice **before** purchasing the marriage license.
- Parties to the marriage **may not add or amend** this information after the marriage license has been issued.

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What should the public know about the new law?

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- This law shall not abrogate the right of either party to adopt a different name at a future date through non-fraudulent common law usage or to petition the superior court for a change of name pursuant to Title 8 (commencing with Section 1275) of Part 3 of the Code of Civil Procedure.
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When does the new law take effect?

This law applies only to marriage licenses issued **on or after 01/01/2009**. Marriage licenses issued prior to 01/01/2009 are not covered under the Name Equality Act.

What does the new law mean?

The Name Equality Act allows one party or both parties to a marriage, through the marriage license process, to elect to change the **middle or last names** by which that party wishes to be known after solemnization of the marriage. A certified copy of a marriage certificate containing the new name, or retaining the former name, shall constitute proof that the use of the new name or retention of the former name is lawful. The new law also specifies that a certified copy of the marriage certificate shall be accepted as identification establishing a true, full name for purposes of obtaining a California driver's license.

What if I am not sure what name I want to use after marriage or have questions related to my legal rights?

If, at the time the marriage license is purchased, you have not decided on the name you wish to use after marriage, you may change your name at a future date through non-fraudulent usage or a court ordered name change. If you are not sure how the changes may legally affect you or have legal questions about the Name Equality Act, please seek legal advice before purchasing a marriage license.

Am I required to list the name on the marriage license that I will be known by following marriage?

No. You are not required to list the name on the marriage license by which you will be known following marriage. If you choose not to change your name at the time you purchase your marriage license, you **may not add or amend** this information on the marriage license/certificate at a later date. If, **after issuance of the marriage license but before the ceremony**, you decide you want to have your new name added to the marriage license, you must purchase a new marriage license and have the old license voided.

What if I live in another state or country?

There is no prohibition against including new name(s) on the marriage license when applicants do not reside in California or the United States. If you have legal concerns about how the changes may affect you in your particular state or country, you should seek legal advice **before** purchasing a California marriage license.

Will other agencies accept my new name?

The marriage certificate is used by multiple local, state, federal and private agencies, each of which have different requirements regarding what documents are acceptable to change your name on their records following marriage. It is recommended that you contact these agencies to verify their requirements prior to applying for your marriage license.

What written information is the State required to provide?

The law requires that the brochure entitled "Your Future Together" include information regarding the options the parties to the marriage have for choosing a new middle or last name upon solemnization of marriage. "Your Future Together" is published by the California Department of Public Health, Genetics Disease Branch.

Who should I call if I have unanswered questions related to this process?

If you have read this pamphlet thoroughly and still have questions that were not answered in this pamphlet, you can contact your County Clerk/Recorder for further assistance. You may also contact the California Department of Public Health, Office of Vital Records, Customer Service Unit at (916) 445-2684. If you have specific questions how the changes may legally affect you or have legal questions about the Name Equality Act, you should consult with a private attorney.

CALIFORNIA COUNTY RECORDERS

Alameda.....	1106 Madison Street, Room 214, Oakland, CA 94607, (510) 272-6363
Alpine.....	P.O. Box 217, Markleeville, CA 96120-0217, (530) 694-2286
Amador.....	810 Court Street, Jackson, CA 95642, (209) 223-6468
Butte.....	25 County Center Drive, Administration Building., Oroville, CA 95965, (530) 538-7691
Calaveras.....	Government Center, 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249, (209) 754-6372
Colusa.....	546 Jay Street, Colusa, CA 95932-2491, (530) 458-0500
Contra Costa.....	555 Escobar Street, Martinez, CA 94553, (925) 646-2365
Del Norte.....	981 H Street, Suite 160, Crescent City, CA 95531, (707) 464-7216 or 7205
El Dorado.....	360 Fair Lane, Placerville, CA 95667, (530) 621-5490
Fresno.....	2281 Tulare Street, Room 303, or P.O. Box 766, Fresno, CA 93712, (559) 488-3476
Glenn.....	526 West Sycamore Street, Courthouse, Willows, CA 96988, (530) 934-6412
Humboldt.....	825 5th Street, Fifth Floor, Eureka, CA 95501, (707) 445-7382
Imperial.....	940 Main Street, Room 206, El Centro, CA 92243-2865, (760) 482-4272
Inyo.....	Courthouse, 168 N. Edwards Street, Independence, CA 93526, (760) 878-0222
Kern.....	1655 Chester Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301, (661) 868-6400
Kings.....	Government Center, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, CA 93230, (559) 582-3211, X 2475
Lake.....	Courthouse, 255 North Forbes Street, Lakeport, CA 95453, (707) 263-2293
Lassen.....	Courthouse, 220 S. Lassen Street, Room 5, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 251-8234
Los Angeles.....	12400 Imperial Highway, Room 1002, Norwalk, CA 90650, (562) 462-2137
Madera.....	200 West 4 th Street, Madera, CA 93637, (559) 675-7724
Marin.....	3501 Civic Center Drive, Courthouse, Room 234, San Rafael, CA 94903, (415) 499-6094
Mariposa.....	4982 10th Street, P.O. Box 35, Mariposa, CA 95338, (209) 966-2332
Mendocino.....	501 Low Gap Road, #1020, Ukiah, CA 95482, (707) 463-4376
Merced.....	2222 M Street, Merced, CA 95340, (209) 385-7627
Modoc.....	204 Court Street, Room 107, Alturas, CA 96101, (530) 233-6205
Mono.....	83 Main Street, P.O. Box 237, Bridgeport, CA 93517-0237, (760) 932-5530
Monterey.....	Church and Alisal Street, P.O. Box 29, Salinas, CA 93902-0029, (831) 755-5041
Napa.....	900 Coombs Street, Room 116, P.O. Box 298, Napa, CA 94559-2936, (707) 253-4105
Nevada.....	950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City, CA 95959, (530) 265-1221
Orange.....	12 Civic Center Plaza, P.O. Box 238, Santa Ana, CA 92702-0238, (714) 834-2500
Placer.....	2954 Richardson Drive, Auburn, CA 95603, (530) 886-5600
Plumas.....	520 Main Street, Room 102, Quincy, CA 95971, (530) 283-6218
Riverside.....	2724 Gateway Drive, or P.O. Box 751, Riverside, CA 92502-0751, (951) 486-7000
Sacramento.....	600 8th Street, or P.O. Box 839, Sacramento, CA 95812-0839, (916) 874-6334
San Benito.....	440 5th Street, Room 206, Hollister, CA 95023-3896, (831) 636-4029
San Bernardino.....	222 W. Hospitality Lane, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0022, (909) 387-8314
San Diego.....	1600 Pacific Highway, Room 260, or P.O. Box 1750, San Diego, CA 92112-4147, (619) 237-0502
San Francisco.....	One Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, City Hall Room 190, San Francisco, CA 94102-4698, (415) 554-4176*
San Francisco Health Dept.	101 Grove Street, Room 105, San Francisco, CA 94102, (415) 554-2700**, (415) 554-2710***
San Joaquin.....	6 South El Dorado, Second Floor, or P.O. Box 1968, Stockton, CA 95201-1968, (209) 468-3939
San Luis Obispo.....	1144 Monterey Street, Suite C, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408, (805) 781-5080
San Mateo.....	Vital Records, 1st Floor, 555 County Center Dr., Redwood City, CA 94063-1665, (650) 363-4713
Santa Barbara.....	1101 Anacampa Street, P.O. Box 159, Santa Barbara, CA 93102-0159, (805) 568-2250
Santa Clara.....	County Government Center, East Wing, 70 W. Hedding St., San Jose, CA 95110, (408) 299-4227
Santa Cruz.....	701 Ocean Street, Room 230, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 454-2800
Shasta.....	1450 Court Street, Suite 208, Redding, CA 96001, (530) 225-5678
Sierra.....	P.O. Drawer D., Downieville, CA 95936, (530) 289-3295
Siskiyou.....	311 4th Street, P.O. Box 8, Yreka, CA 96097, (530) 842-8065
Solano.....	675 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA 94533, (707) 421-6290
Sonoma.....	585 Fiscal Drive, Room 103F, or P.O. Box 1709, Santa Rosa, CA 95402, (707) 565-2651
Stanislaus.....	1021 I Street, Suite 101, or P.O. Box 1670, Modesto, CA 95353, (209) 525-5251
Sutter.....	433 Second Street, or P.O. Box 1555, Yuba City, 95992-1555, (530) 822-7134
Tehama.....	633 Washington Street, P.O. Box 250, Red Bluff, CA 96080, (530) 527-3350
Trinity.....	101 Court Street, P.O. Box 1215, Weaverville, CA 96093, (530) 623-1215
Tulare.....	County Civic Center, 221 S. Mooney Blvd., Room 105, Visalia, CA 93291-4593, (559) 733-6419
Tuolumne.....	2 South Green Street, Sonora, CA 95370, (209) 533-5531
Ventura.....	800 South Victoria Avenue, LN 1260, Ventura, CA 93009, (805) 654-2295
Yolo.....	625 Court Street, Room B01, Woodland, CA 95695, (530) 666-8130
Yuba.....	915 8th Street, Marysville, CA 95901, (530) 749-7851

* Marriages

** Births

*** Deaths

CALIFORNIA COUNTY CLERKS

Alameda..... Courthouse, 1106 Madison St., 1st Floor, Oakland, CA 94607, (510) 272-6565
Alpine..... P.O. Box 158, Markleeville, CA 96120, (530) 694-2281
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Butte..... 25 County Center Drive, Oroville, CA 95965, (530) 538-7691
Calaveras..... Government Center, 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249, (209) 754-6372
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El Dorado 360 Fair Lane, Placerville, CA 95667, (530) 621-5490
Fresno..... 2221 Kern Street, Fresno, CA 93721, (559) 488-3375
Glenn..... Courthouse, 526 W. Sycamore Street, Willows, CA 95988-2746, (530) 934-6412
Humboldt Courthouse, 825 Fifth Street, 5th Floor, Eureka, CA 95501, (707) 445-7382
Imperial..... Courthouse, 940 Main Street, Suite 206, El Centro, CA 92243-2865, (760) 482-4427
Inyo Courthouse, P.O. Box F, Independence, CA 93526, (760) 878-0222
Kern 1115 Truxton Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301-4639, (661) 868-3516
Kings Government Center, 1400 W. Lacey Boulevard, Hanford, CA 93230-9910, (559) 582-3211 X 2302
Lake Courthouse, 225 N. Forbes Street, Lakeport CA 95453, (707) 263-2311
Lassen Courthouse, 220 S. Lassen Street, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 251-8216
Los Angeles 12400 E. Imperial Highway, Norwalk, CA 90650, (562) 462-2716
Madera..... 200 West 4th Street, Madera, CA 93637, (559) 675-7721
Marin..... 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 247, Civic Center Courthouse, San Rafael, CA 94903 OR P.O. Box E,
San Rafael, CA 94913-3904, (415) 499-6140
Mariposa Courthouse, P.O. Box 247, Mariposa, CA 95338, (209) 966-2005
Mendocino 501 Low Gap Road, #1020, Ukiah, CA 95482, (707) 463-4370
Merced 2222 M Street, Room 14, Merced, CA 95340, (209) 385-7501
Modoc Box 130, Alturas, CA 96101, (530) 233-6201
Mono..... Annex 2 Bryant Street, Bridgeport, CA 93517, (760) 932-5530
Monterey 240 Church Street, P.O. Box 29, Salinas, CA 93902, (831) 755-5404
Napa 900 Coombs Street, Room 116, P.O. Box 298, Napa, CA 94559-0298, (707) 253-4247
Nevada HEW Building, Suite E, 10433 Willow Valley Road, Nevada City, CA 95959, (530) 265-1298
Orange..... 12 Civic Center Plaza, Room 106, P.O. Box 238, Santa Ana, CA 92702, (714) 834-2887
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San Luis Obispo... 1144 Monterey Street, Suite A, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408, (805) 781-5088
San Mateo Special Services, Room B, 1st Floor, 555 County Center Drive, Redwood City, CA 94063-1665, (650) 363-4712
Santa Barbara 1100 Anacapa St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101, (805) 568-2250
Santa Clara..... Superior Court Building, 170 Park Plaza, San Jose, CA 95113, (408) 299-8583
Santa Cruz..... 701 Ocean Street, Room 230, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 454-2800
Shasta 1643 Market Street, Redding, CA 96001, OR P.O. Box 990880, Redding, CA 96099-0880, (530) 225-5730
Sierra..... P.O. Drawer D, Downieville, CA 95936, (530) 289-3295
Siskiyou Courthouse, P.O. Box 338, Yreka, CA 96097, (530) 842-8084
Solano 675 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA 94533, (707) 784-7510
Sonoma 2300 County Center Drive, Suite B 177, Santa Rosa, CA 95403, (707) 565-3800
Stanislaus 1021 I Street, Suite 101, P. O. Box 1670, Modesto, CA 95353-1670, (209) 525-5211
Sutter..... 433 Second Street, Yuba City, CA 95991, OR P.O. Box 1555, Yuba City, CA 95922-1555, (530) 822-7120
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Tulare..... 221 S. Mooney Boulevard, Room 103, Visalia, CA 93291-4593, (559) 733-6374
Tuolumne 2nd Floor, Admin. Bldg., 2 South Green Street, Suite E, Sonora, CA 95370, (209) 533-5570
Ventura..... 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009, (805) 654-2266
Yolo..... 625 Court Street, Room B01, Woodland, CA 95695, (530) 666-8264
Yuba..... 915 8th Street, Suite 107, Marysville, CA 95901, (530) 749-7851