

CHANGE OF NAME (MINOR CHILD(REN))

This checklist is designed to help persons seeking to represent themselves in court without the assistance of an attorney. It is meant to serve as a guide only. It is not guaranteed that either the instructions or the forms will achieve the result desired by the parties. It is not ensured that any individual judge accept each form drafted. Any person using these instructions and forms does so at their own risk.

Please note, the Family Court Case Management Self-Help Office provides procedural information and cannot give legal advice.

All forms listed below can be found at www.flcourts.org under Self Help, Family Law Forms, unless otherwise noted.

- **Petition** Form 12.982 (c) Please read all directions and complete the petition in its entirety. Please pay particular attention to the following:
 - Petitioner(s) MUST be a resident of and domiciled in Marion County
 - List all places of residency ***since birth***
 - Petition must be signed and notarized by petitioner(s)
 - If the minor has been known by any former names a copy of the order is required
- **Background Check of Adult Petitioner's from Court Approved Location** - (Clerk has list of providers)

Note: If both parents are petitioning parties, BOTH are required to obtain background checks

- **Coversheet for Family Court Cases** Form 12.928
- **Disclosure from Nonlawyer** Form 12.900 (a)
- **Designation of Current Mailing and Email Address** Form (per A.O. A-2022-47)
- **Certified Copy of the Birth Certificate(s)** – for all minor child(ren) named in the Petition
- **Consent for Change of Name - Minor Child(ren)** Form 12.982 (d) Required from Responding party

Service of Process on Responding Party

Personal Service - Personal service is required if the party's whereabouts are known.

- **Summons: Personal Service on an Individual** - Form 12.910(a)
Alternatively, the Respondent may file an Answer to Petition and Waiver of Service of Process. (**FORM 12.903(a) OR 12.903(b) OR 12.903(c)(2)**) Forms are available at www.circuit5.org

Service by Publication or Posting - You must attempt personal service at the Respondent's last known address before filing an affidavit of diligent search.

- **Affidavit of Diligent Search** - Form 12.913 (b)

NOTE: This affidavit must be filled out completely with supporting documentation attached to the affidavit.

- **By Publication:** Must publish once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks in a publication in the county of the Court [See Florida Statute 49.10 (1)(a)]. - PETITIONER RESPONSIBLE FOR PUBLISHING IN NEWSPAPER
- **By Posting:** If the Petitioner is found indigent by the Clerk of Court – CLERK WILL POST FOR PETITIONER

Note: Constructive Service is permitted if other parent is nonresident

- **Copy of Driver's License or Voters Registration Card** – to show proof of Marion County residency
- **Notice of Related Cases** Form 12.900 (h)
- **Motion to Set Final Hearing** Form available at www.marioncountyclerk.org **PLEASE DO NOT FILE THIS MOTION UNTIL ALL THE ABOVE ITEMS HAVE BEEN FILED**