

CHANGE OF NAME (FAMILY)

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 will follow the procedures exactly or 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 for Change of Name (Family)** - Form 12.982(f) Read all directions and complete the petition entirely. *Petitioner(s) must be a resident of and currently reside in Sumter County*
- **Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address**- Form 12.915
- **Cover Sheet for Family Court Cases** - Form 12.928
- **Notice of Related Cases** - Form 12.900(h)
- **Consent for Change of Name (Minor Child(ren))** - Form 12.982(d) If only one parent is the petitioner, this form is required of the other parent.
- **Background Check for All Adult Petitioner(s) from Court Approved Location** – (Clerk has list of providers) Background check shall include ALL prior, present, future names, and aliases Petitioner was/is/may be known by
- **Proper Documentation of All Former Names** – If you have been known by any former names, it is required to provide a copy of the Court order(s)/judgement(s) and/or marriage certificate(s).
- **Certified Copy of Minor Child(ren)'s Birth Certificate(s)**

SERVICE OF PROCESS IS REQUIRED ON THE RESPONDING PARTY/OTHER PARENT UNLESS CONSENT FOR CHANGE OF NAME (MINOR CHILD(REN)) - FORM 12.982(d) IS SIGNED BY THE RESPONDING PARTY/OTHER PARENT.

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF SERVICE OF PROCESS OR INFORMATION REGARDING THE STEPS INVOLVED WITH SERVING THE OTHER PARTY, REFER TO THE [SERVICE OF PROCESS](http://WWW.CIRCUITS.ORG) INFORMATIONAL DOCUMENT LOCATED ON WWW.CIRCUITS.ORG. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS PROVIDED ON THE GENERAL INFORMATION FOR SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS DOCUMENT LOCATED ON WWW.FLCOURTS.ORG.

Personal Service

- **Summons: Personal Service on an Individual** - Form 12.910(a)
- **Process Service Memorandum**- Form 12.910(b)

Constructive Service

****MUST attempt Personal Service at respondent's last known address BEFORE proceeding with this type of service****
This is a complicated area of the law and you may want to consult with an attorney before using constructive service.

- **Affidavit of Diligent Search and Inquiry** - Form 12.913(b) – Attach supporting documentation.
- **Notice of Action** - Form 12.913(a)(2) – Read instructions thoroughly.

Additional Forms: Disclosure from Nonlawyer – Form 12.900(a)