

<https://kingcounty.gov/en/court/district-court/courts-jails-legal-system/name-changes>

For assistance, please contact the Help Desk at [kcdcefilinghelp@kingcounty.gov](mailto:kcdcefilinghelp@kingcounty.gov).

# Name changes - District Court

How to change your name, or the name of a minor, and where to go if you need the case sealed.

- - [Name change process](#)
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- You can file an application to change your legal name in any district court in Washington.

The person requesting a name change is called the “petitioner.” More than 1 petitioner may be included in a name change case. For example, a married couple, or a mother and her child, may be included in 1 name change case.

## Name change process

The first step to change your name is to file a Petition for Name Change with the Court. You must submit a separate Petition for Name Change for each person you are requesting a name change for. If a judge grants your name change request, the Court will issue a single order that changes all person’s names.

After you file your Petition for Name Change, the Court will schedule you to appear before a judge (this appearance is called a “hearing.”) The Court will let you know when and where your hearing is held.

Photo ID is required. You must bring your photo ID to your Name Change hearing. If your Photo ID does not show that you live in Washington state, you will need to submit documentation showing you are a current Washington resident. The judge may require a certified copy of the birth certificate for minor children. The judge also may require consent of both parents either in person or with notarized written consent.

If the person for whom you are seeking a name change is a minor, 14 to 17 years old, they must attend the hearing. Children under 14 years old may be required to attend at the judge's discretion.

If a judge grants your name change request, the Court provides you a certified copy of the name change order after your hearing. The Court also records your name change with the King County Recorder's Office.

Only the Order needs to be recorded, not your Petition for Name Change. Recording takes 6 to 8 weeks, and a copy with the Recorder's number will be returned to you.

## Sealed name changes

Under state law ([RCW 4.24.130 \(5\)](#)), Superior Court will automatically seal the records of the name change for petitioners who:

- Are an emancipated minor
- Have asylum, refugee, or special immigrant juvenile status
- Are changing their name due to gender expression or identity ([RCW 49.60.040](#))
- Are changing their name due to reasonable fear of domestic violence, stalking, unlawful harassment, or coercive control ([RCW 7.105.010](#))

Contact the [Superior Court Clerk’s office](#) for more information.

District Court does not have the power to automatically seal a name change file. District Court may only seal name change files after a person requests a hearing, and a hearing is held on the record.

# Name change costs

There are **TWO FEES** you must pay for a name change: 1) **Filing fee**; and 2) **Recording fee**.

## 1. Filing fee

This fee includes 1 certified copy of the name change order; additional certified copies are \$5 each.

### Cost

\$98 per application

### Payment method

Payable to King County District Court by:

- Cash
- Check
- Money order
- Credit card

## 2. Recording fee

A separate check is required for each named individual in the Petition for Name Change. You must bring this payment to your scheduled hearing.

### Cost

- *Individual name change petition*: \$203.50.
- *Family name change petition*: \$204.50 for the first named person, plus \$203.50 for each additional named person.

### Payment method

This payment must be made payable to King County Recorder's Office in the form of a:

- Check
  - Must have pre-printed name and address
  - Check number must be higher than 100
- Money order
- Cashier's check

## Requesting a fee waiver

If you are not able to pay the filing fee, recorder's fee, or both, you may request a waiver by completing a [Motion and Declaration for Waiver of Civil Fees and Surcharges \(549KB\)](#).

A judge will review your request for fee waiver.

## File a name change petition

You can file a petition to change your name in 1 of 3 ways:

### In person

1. Fill out the appropriate form for your situation:

- [Petition for Name Change \(Individual\)](#)
  - [Petition for Minor Child Name Change](#)
2. Hand in the completed form to the clerks at any [King County District Court location](#).
  3. Pay the King County District Court filing fee and recording fee.

## Online

Refer to [instructions to e-file for a name change](#)

1. [Register for a free e-filing portal account](#).
  2. Log into the [District Court e-filing portal](#)
  3. Fill out the appropriate form for your situation:
    - [Petition for Name Change \(Individual\)](#)
    - [Petition for Minor Child Name Change](#)
- The system will direct you to pay the King County District Court filing fee.
    - Although you will have paid the filing fee online, **you must bring the Recording fee with you to your hearing** – in the form of a check, money order or cashier's check made payable to the King County Recorder's Office.

## By mail

1. Fill out the appropriate form for your situation:
  - [Petition for Name Change \(Individual\)](#)
  - [Petition for Minor Child Name Change](#)
- Mail the completed form to any [King County District Court location](#).
- Include the King County District Court filing fee as listed under Name Change Costs. You must bring the Recording fee with you to your hearing.

## Changing your birth certificate

If you were born in Washington state and wish to change the legal name on your birth certificate, visit the Washington State Department of Health Center for Health Statistics [Changing Birth Certificates](#).

# Name change hearing timeline and schedule

## Hearing scheduling timeline

The Court will schedule your name change hearing based on the form of payment you use for the King County District Court fees:

- Within 90 days if you pay by cash or approved voucher from King County.
- After 30 days, but no more than 90 days, if you pay by any other method than cash or approved voucher.

## Filing and hearing schedule

The District Court typically holds name change hearings on the following days and times. These days and times are subject to change. The Court will notify you when and where your name change hearing will be held.

### Location

### Hearing days and times

Thursdays at 1:05 p.m.

### [Auburn Courthouse](#)

Petitions must be filed by 11:00 a.m. the same day

Mondays and Fridays at 1:00 p.m.

[Bellevue Courthouse](#)

Petitions must be filed by 11:00 a.m. the same day

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 1:00 p.m.

[Burien Courthouse](#)

Petitions must be filed by 11:00 a.m. the same day

Wednesdays and Fridays at 1:00 p.m.

[Issaquah Courthouse](#)

Petitions must be filed by 11:00 a.m. the same day

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.

[Maleng Regional Justice Center](#)

Petitions must be filed by 11:00 a.m. the same day

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.

[Redmond Courthouse](#)

Petitions must be filed by 11:00 a.m. the same day

Mondays and Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m.

[Seattle Courthouse](#)

Call to confirm for Fridays at 1:15 p.m.

Petitions must be filed by 11:00 a.m. the same day

Mondays and Fridays at 11:00 a.m.

[Shoreline Courthouse](#)

Petitions must be filed by 9:15 a.m. the same day

## **Name change forms**

- [Motion and Declaration for Waiver of Civil Fees and Surcharges](#)
- [Petition for Name Change \(Individual\)](#)
- [Petition for Minor Child Name Change](#)