

Name Change, Name Conformity or Birth Certificate Correction: Which process is right for my situation?

Change of Name

- I want to change all or part of my name to a new name
- I want to change all or part of my child's name
- I want to change my last name and I did not recently get married
- I want to restore my maiden name following a divorce and I did not choose to do it when the divorce was pending

Name Conformity

- My name does not match on one or more of my official identity documents (Birth Certificate, Social Security Card, Driver's License, Passport, Marriage Certificate or Divorce Decree)
- An inconsistency in my name is prohibiting me from getting a driver's license
- I was not born in Ohio, and I have an error or misspelling on my birth certificate
- My child was not born in Ohio and has an error or misspelling on their birth certificate
- I was born in Ohio, but the name on my birth certificate doesn't match the name I have used all of my life
- I was in a common law marriage with no marriage certificate to document my name change

Birth Correction

- I was born in Ohio and I have an error or misspelling on my birth certificate
- I was born in Ohio and one of my parent's names is misspelled or my birth date is incorrect on my birth certificate
- My child was born in Ohio and one of the names is misspelled or the birth date is incorrect on my child's birth certificate
- The error on my or my child's birth certificate is a true error, not a desired change or alternate spelling acquired following birth

Situations Probate Court Cannot Correct

- I want to add or remove a parent from my child's birth certificate
- I want to add or remove a parent from my birth certificate
- I want paternity testing to prove the father on my child's birth certificate is not the biological father
- I was married at the time my child was born, but my husband is not my child's biological father and I want to correct my child's birth certificate

If the situation regarding your name is not referenced in one of these sections, you should contact the Probate Court or an Attorney before commencing any legal action regarding your name. The situations described that Probate Court cannot correct are generally matters outside of Probate Court's jurisdiction. It is recommended that you contact the Ohio Department of Health or an Attorney to assist you in these types of situations.