

Name Change of Minor

Requirements

You may apply for a name change **only** if the minor has been a Portage County resident for the past 60 days.

The Process

The documents listed below must be prepared by the applicant or attorney, and submitted to the Court for filing, along with the filing fee. Once the documents have been approved for filing by the Court, the Court will do one of the following:

- If **both natural parents' consent are provided**, the Court may dispense with a hearing and make a ruling on the application. Copies of the Judgment Entry will be mailed to the applicant upon approval.
- If **both natural parents' consent are not provided**, the Court will set the application for a formal in-person hearing. The applicant will be required to appear. The non-consenting parent will be served with notice of the hearing.

All hearings are set approximately 6 weeks from the date of filing. The Court will issue a Judgment Entry Setting Hearing and Ordering Notice, directing how service on the non-consenting parent will be performed.

- If the non-consenting parent is to be served by certified mail, the Court will issue service;
- In the non-consenting parent will be served by publication, personal service or other method of service, the applicant will be responsible for making arrangements for other service as directed pursuant to the Judgment Entry Setting Hearing and Ordering Notice. Proof of service must be filed with the Court at least 7 days prior to the hearing.

The Court reserves the right to require additional documentation be submitted to support the name change, require a criminal background check, or hold a formal hearing on the application.

Initial Filing

- Application for Change of Name of Minor (Form 21.2)
- Photocopy of minor's Birth Certificate
- Photocopy of minor's Driver's License or State ID (if any) (driver's license number, issuance date and expiration date must be redacted)
- Affidavit in Support of Application for Change of Name of Minor (Form 21.02)
 - This must be notarized by a Notary Public before being submitted for filing (Court staff cannot notarize documents)
- Judgment Entry Changing Name of Minor (Form 21.3)
- Waiver of Notice of Hearing and Consent to Change of Name of Minor (Form 21.4)
 - Both parents of the minor must sign this waiver to dispense with a hearing on the application

If the both parents' consents are not provided with the application, the following must be filed:

- Judgment Entry Setting Hearing and Ordering Notice (Form 21.03)
- Notice of Hearing on Change of Name (Form 21.5)

If Requesting the Name Change to be Confidential:

The law requires very specific criteria be met in order for someone to qualify for a confidential name change. The applicant must provide proof that it would jeopardize the applicant's or minor's personal safety to have the name change on the public record. Please refer to R.C. 2717.11 to determine if you meet the requirements.

In addition to the forms required for *initial filing* above, the documents listed below must also be submitted, along with any required attachments. The Judge will review all of the documents and make a determination as to whether it qualifies as a confidential name change. If so, the Court will contact the applicant or attorney to set a hearing, if determined necessary.

- Motion for Confidentiality of Proceeding (Form 21.6)
- Order Granting Confidentiality of Proceeding (Form 21.06)