

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHANGE OF NAME OF A MINOR

An application may only be filed if the minor has been a resident of Hamilton County for at least **one year** prior to the filing of said application.

A **copy of the minor's birth certificate, which was certified and shown to the Court**, is required at the initial filing.

Fill in **all** blanks except Case No. and hearing dates.

A fee is required at the time of filing. Current Court Costs are posted at:

<https://www.probatect.org/about/general-resources>.

Please confirm the amount with the Cashier since filing fees may have changed subsequent to this publication of the instruction sheet. **This fee must be paid in cash, money order, certified check (made payable to PROBATE COURT), MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or Visa. No personal checks will be accepted.**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT PUBLICATION:** Ohio Law requires that notice of the application shall be given once by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the County at least thirty (30) days before the hearing on the application. The **NOTICE OF HEARING ON CHANGE OF NAME** is for this purpose. If you use the Cincinnati Court Index Press the **NOTICE OF HEARING ON CHANGE OF NAME** will be left with the cashier and the Cincinnati Court Index Press will pick up the notice. The Cincinnati Court Index Press will be paid directly by the Court from the initial filing fees for this case. After publication is completed, the Cincinnati Court Index Press will send the Court a Proof of Publication and an Entry Approving Publication. If you choose another newspaper for publication it is your responsibility to send them the **NOTICE OF HEARING ON CHANGE OF NAME**, pay the publication cost and bring the Proof of Publication and the Entry Approving Publication with you to your hearing.

**If the publication is not completed at least thirty (30) days prior to the hearing, the name change cannot be granted and re-publication will be required at additional cost and delay to you.**

The forms may be obtained from the Issue Desk on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor of the Probate Court, 230 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Cincinnati, Ohio or by downloading the forms from our Web site, <http://www.probatect.org>.

<b>STEP 1: COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING FORMS</b>
Application for Change of Name of Minor (Form 21.20) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Be sure to state <u>the minor's full legal name</u> (first, middle and last) and <u>full name requested</u> after the change of name (first, middle and last).</li><li>- You must include your reasons for seeking a change of name.</li><li>- A copy of the minor's birth certificate, which was certified and shown to the Court, is attached.</li></ul>
Entry Setting Hearing and Ordering Notice (Form 21.11) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Fill in the caption only.</li><li>- The hearing date will be assigned by the Magistrate</li></ul>

Notice of Hearing on Change of Name (Form 21.50)

- Complete all the information requested, except the hearing date which will be filled in by the Magistrate.
- If publishing in the Cincinnati Court Index Press, the Cashier will keep the notice. If not, the notice will be given back to you.

Consent to Change of Name (Form 21.40)

- One of these forms must be completed by **each** parent and filed with the Court prior to or at the time of hearing.

Notice to Parent (Form 21.21)

- This form must be completed if a parent has failed to complete and sign the Consent to Change of Name.
- The Applicant must forward this Notice to the non-consenting parent by certified mail, return receipt requested not later than seven days before the hearing.
- The return receipt (green card) showing delivery must be attached to a copy of the notice and presented to the Court at the hearing. An Affidavit in Proof of Service will also be required.

**STEP 2: APPROVAL OF FORMS AND SETTING OF HEARING DATE**

When all forms have been completed, present them to the Information Desk on the 9<sup>th</sup> Floor of Probate Court for a Magistrate to review and setting of a hearing date.

**STEP 3: FILING OF FORMS**

All forms must be filed with the Cashier who will assign a case number. The cashier will retain the Application for Change of Name of Minor, Judgment Entry Setting Hearing and Ordering Notice, and the Consent to Change of Name, if applicable. The Cashier will also retain the Notice of Hearing on Change of Name if you will be using the Cincinnati Court Index Press. At this time, the Cashier will require the payment of the filing fee.

**STEP 4: THE HEARING – WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU AND WHAT TO EXPECT**

Consent to Change of Name (if not previously filed) (Form 21.40)

Notice to Parent (if sent to parent) (Form 21.21)

- Return copy with certified mail green card attached, along with Affidavit in Proof of Service (H.C. Form 200.10)
- The Affidavit can be obtained at the Information Desk prior to your hearing.

Judgment Entry – Change of Name of Minor (Form 21.30)

- Fill in everything above the signature line for the Probate Judge.
- It is strongly recommended that this form be typewritten.
- This Entry is proof that you have legally changed your name and it is important that it be legible.

At the date and time of the hearing, you should report to the 9<sup>th</sup> floor of the Probate Court to the Information Desk. **The minor child must be present.** Give the Magistrate the Judgment Entry – Change of Name of Minor. You should also present the Consent to Change of Name and/or Notice to Parent. The Magistrate will ask you questions regarding the application and will decide whether to grant the name change. Assuming the application is granted, you must then file the Judgment Entry – Change of Name of Minor, and the Consent and/or Notice of Parent with the Cashier.

If you require certified copies of the JUDGMENT ENTRY – CHANGE OF NAME OF MINOR for Social Security, school, or other purposes, the cashier will make the copies of the entry and certify the copies at a nominal cost. You must send a certified copy of the JUDGMENT ENTRY- CHANGE OF NAME OF MINOR to the Bureau of Vital Statistics of the State that maintains the birth record.

For births that occurred in **Ohio**, the certified copy of the Judgment Entry, along with the fee (contact Vital Statistics for the current cost), should be mailed to:

**Bureau of Vital Statistics**  
**246 North High Street**  
**P.O. Box 15098**  
**Columbus, Ohio 43215-0098**  
**(614) 466-2531**

**Local Departments:**

**Born within City of Cincinnati limits**

Cincinnati Department of Health  
Division of Vital Statistics  
1525 E. Elm Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45210  
(513) 352-2912

**Born outside city limits but in Hamilton County**

Hamilton County Department of Health  
Division of Vital Statistics  
250 William Howard Taft Road 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219  
(513) 946-7800

**Born within City of St. Bernard limits**

St. Bernard City Hall  
110 Washington Street  
St. Bernard, Ohio 45217  
(513) 242-7772

**Born within City of Reading limits**

City of Reading Health Department  
1000 Market Street  
Reading, Ohio 45215  
(513) 733-3725

**Born within City of Norwood limits**

Norwood Health Center  
2059 Sherman Avenue  
Norwood, Ohio 45212  
(513) 458-4600