

NAME CHANGE PROCEDURES

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE COURT IS NOT ALLOWED TO GIVE LEGAL ADVICE OR HELP YOU FILL OUT THESE FORMS. IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONSULT AN ATTORNEY.

PREREQUISITE:

Applicant must have been a resident of the county in which the petition for name change is filed for a minimum of 12 months immediately preceding the filing of the petition.

NAME CHANGE FEES

<i>Description</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Fee</i>
Court Filing Fee	Mecosta County Probate Court	\$175.00
Paper Publication	Big Rapids Pioneer	\$78.25
Certified Order of Name Change	Mecosta County Probate Court	\$12.00
Finger Printing - for Adults 22+	Mecosta County Clerk	\$15.00
Criminal History Check - for Adults 22+	Michigan State Police	\$42.00

BACKGROUND CHECK

A background check is preformed to determine if the name change is sought with fraudulent intent. A background check is not preformed on applicants 21 years of age and younger. To obtain the necessary background check, the applicant must take the completed copy of the *Petition for Name Change* to Mecosta County Community Corrections and obtain a set of finger prints.

Once the applicant has obtained the fingerprint card from Mecosta County Community Corrections, he or she must mail the following items to the address listed below:

- Copy of the *Petition for Name Change*
- State Applicant Fingerprint Card
- \$42.00 nonrefundable fee payable to the State of Michigan
 - MICHIGAN STATE POLICE
CENTRAL RECORDS DIVISION
P.O. Box 30634
LANSING, MI 48909
(517) 241-0606

The applicant's background check must go through the State of Michigan and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It takes approximately 3-4 weeks for the background check to be completed. The court upon receipt of the completed background check will then contact the applicant to set the hearing date for the name change.

NAME CHANGE OF A MINOR

- For the name change of a minor, consent must be give by the non-custodial parent.

OR

- Provide proof that the non-custodial parent has been convicted of child abuse (MCL 750.136b), criminal sexual conduct (MCL 750.520b, c, d, or e), or assault with intent to commit criminal sexual conduct (MCL 750.520g) and the child or a sibling of the child was the victim.

OR

- Must show the non-custodial parent has had the ability to visit, contact, or communicate with the child and has not regularly and substantially failed or neglected to do so for a period of two years or more before the filing of the petition.

- **AND EITHER**

- A support order has been entered, and the non-custodial parent has failed to substantially comply with the order for a period of two years or more before the filing of the petition.

OR

- An order of support has not been entered and the non-custodial parent, having the ability to support or assist in supporting the child, has failed or neglected to provide regular and substantial support for two years or more before filing of the petition.

PUBLICATION

The applicant must publish the notice of hearing once in a Mecosta County publication, The Big Rapids Pioneer, at least two weeks prior to the hearing date. The applicant must pay the newspaper for this publication in order for the notice to be published. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the court receives an Affidavit of Publication prior to the hearing.

FORMS INCLUDED IN THIS PACKET

- [Mecosta County Community Corrections Fingerprint Information](#)
- [Petition to Change Name PC 51](#)
- [Minor's Consent to Change Name PC 51b](#)

Name Change

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Mecosta County Probate Court, 400 Elm Street, Big Rapids, MI 49307

Ph: 231-592-0135 Fax: 231-592-0191