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⚠ **This page has been automatically translated. Please refer to the page in French if needed.**

Use name of a major: using parents' names

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Additional cases ? For a minor child (https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F36441)

You're an adult, your last name is your father's, and you wonder if you can also carry your mother's name? Any person may be given thename of the parent who was not given to the parent at birth . We tell you which usage name you can choose and how to include this name on your official documents.

Surname and Usage: what difference?

Everyone has family name (https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F35060?lang=en).

The last name **on the birth certificate** .

This could include the name of the father, or the mother, or the name of your father and mother together.

However, it is possible to use **in everyday life** another name called **usage name** .

The usage name **may** throughout life.

Usage name does not replace last name which remains the only name mentioned on civil status acts .

What usage name can you choose?

You can use the following usage name:

- A double name consisting of your name and the name of the parent that was not transmitted to you at birth, within the limit of a family name, in case of a double name, for each of the parents. **The order of names** can be chosen freely.
- The name of the parent that was not passed to you at birth.

This parent must be **on your birth certificate** .

You can choose a usage name **at any age** .

The chosen usage name is **final**.

In case of marriage (https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F868?lang=en), you can renounce or change your usage name to your spouse's, but you cannot accumulate these 2 usage types.

> *Example :*
>
> your last name is: BELIER
>
> Your father's name: BELIER
>
> Your mother's name: DURAND
>
> You can choose a usage name: DURAND, BELIER DURAND, DURAND BELIER

> *Example :*
>
> your last name is: BELIER
>
> Your father's name: BELIER GORCE
>
> Your mother's name: DURAND DUPONT
>
> You can choose a usage name: BELIER DURAND, DURAND BELIER, BELIER DUPONT, DUPONT BELIER, GORCE DURAND GORCE, GORCE DUPONT, DUPONT GORCE, BELIER GORCE, DURAND DUPONT, GORCE, DURAND DUPONT

> *Example :*
>
> your last name is: BELIER DURAND
>
> Your father's name: BELIER
>
> Your mother's name: DURAND

You can choose a usage name: DURAND BELIER, BELIER, DURAND

Example :

your last name is: BELIER DURAND

Your father's name: BELIER GORCE

Your mother's name: DURAND DUPONT

You can choose a usage name: DURAND BELIER, BELIER DUPONT, DUPONT BELIER, GORCE DURAND, DURAND GORCE, GORCE DUPONT, DUPONT GORCE, BELIER GORCE, DURAND DUPONT, BELIER, GORCE, DURAND, DUPONT

Example :

your last name is: BELIER-GORCE

Your father's name: BELIER-GORCE

Your mother's name: DURAND-DUPONT

You can choose a usage name: BELIER-GORCE DURAND-DUPONT, DURAND-DUPONT BELIER-GORCE, DURAND-DUPONT

Example :

your last name is: BELIER GORCE

Your father's name: BELIER-GORCE

Your mother's name: DURAND-DUPONT

You can choose a usage name: BELIER DURAND-DUPONT, DURAND-DUPONT BELIER, GORCE DURAND-DUPONT, DURAND-DUPONT GORCE, DURAND-DUPONT, BELIER, GORCE

> (➡) **FYI :** both parents can choose <u>from the birth of the child</u> (https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F10505?lang=en) that it bears their two names. In this case, this name is the child's surname.

How do I put your usage name on your official documents?

First use name on ID

To include a usage name after family name on <u>identity card</u> (https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/N358?lang=en) or <u>passport</u> (https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/N360?lang=en), you must:

- Fill in *second* on <u>form or pre-application of identity papers</u> (https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F33640?lang=en)
- Provide a birth certificate (full copy or extract with filiation) showing the name of the 2 parents

These documents are to be attached to the application file for ID and to be provided at the same window.

To Renew Identity Document

Your usage name has not changed

No new usage name documents should be provided.

You no longer want to use a usage name

Just leave the line blank « *second* » of <u>form or pre-application of identity papers</u> (https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F33640?lang=en)

You want to use a different usage name

You must provide new supporting documents such as a full copy of the marriage certificate if you wish to use <u>the name of your spouse</u> (https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F868?lang=en).

These documents should be included in the application for identity documents.

Use name on other official documents

The chosen usage name can be used in all acts of private, family, social or professional life.

For example, to apply for a social benefit, the form may indicate a box « *usage name* ».

Upon request, the administration must use the name in the letters it sends you.

Statute and miscellaneous references

- Act No. 2022-301 of 2 March 2022 on the choice of the name resulting from the filiation ⬚ (https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000045287682)
- Act No. 85-1372 of 23 December 1985 on the equality of spouses and parents: Article 43 ⬚ (https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000000521293#LEGISCTA000006083855)
  Use of the name of 2 parents (Article 43)
- Civil Code: Articles 311-21 to 311-24-2 ⬚ (https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000006070721/LEGISCTA000006150015)
  Name of use for parentage (Article 311-24-2)
- Code of Public Administration Relations: Articles L111-1 to L111-3 ⬚ (https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000031366350/LEGISCTA000031367316)
  Use of the name by the administration on request (Article L111-3)
- Decree No. 55-1397 of 22 October 1955 on the identity card: Item 4 - Parts to be provided for a first application ⬚ (https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/article_lc/LEGIARTI000034729485)
- Decree No. 2005-1726 of 30 December 2005 on passports: Item 5 - Parts to be provided for a first application ⬚ (https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/article_lc/LEGIARTI000033333825)
- Judgement of the Court of Cassation (Civil Chamber 1) No 05-17163 of 3 March 2009 ⬚ (https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichJuriJudi.do?idTexte=JURITEXT000020358997)
  Addition of a usage name for a minor child by the holders of parental authority
- Circular of June 3, 2022 on the introduction of the provisions of Law No. 2022-301 of March 2, 2022 on the choice of the name resulting from filiation ⬚ (https://www.justice.gouv.fr/bo/2022/20220630/JUSC2215808C.pdf)
- Circular of 28 October 2011 on various civil registration documents relating to birth and filiation (PDF - 1.0 MB) ⬚ (https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/circulaire/id/34124)
- Circular of 4 November 1987 concerning the name of use ⬚ (https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jo_pdf.do?id=JORFTEXT000000478410)

For more information, please contact

- Circular of 3 June 2022 (Law of 2 March 2022) - Name of use - name change ⬚ (https://www.justice.gouv.fr/bo/2022/20220630/JUSC2215808C.pdf)
  Ministry of Justice