



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

## Procedure for changing surname by decree (legitimate reason)

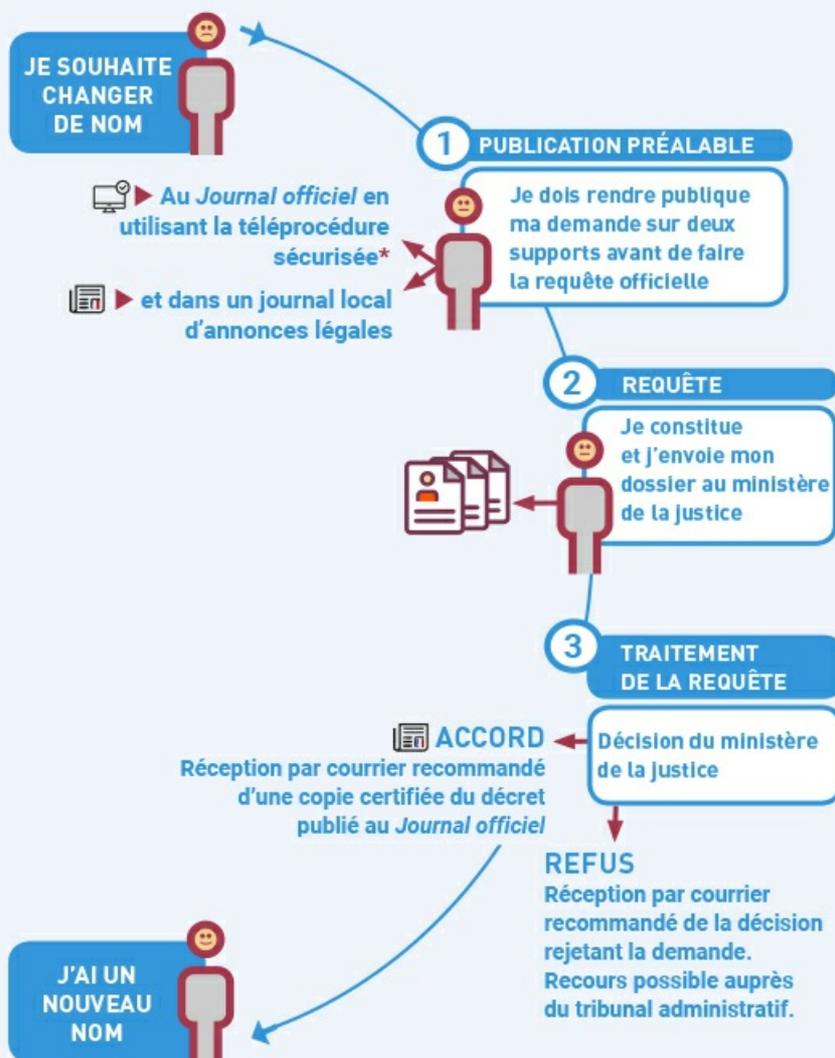
Verified 01 juillet 2022 - Directorate of Legal and Administrative Information (Prime Minister), Ministry of Justice

Additional cases ? [Simplified family name change process \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F36379\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F36379)

You have legitimate reason to change family name ? For example, your name is difficult to wear? You can use procedure for name change by order. This page shows you the steps to follow to do this.

You reside in France

# Changement de nom pour motif légitime



**À SAVOIR :** à chaque étape, un tiers peut s'opposer au changement de nom. Ce droit ne peut plus s'exercer lorsque la décision autorisant le changement de nom est devenue définitive.

\* ou, à défaut, par mail ou courrier au Journal officiel

Infographie © Direction de l'information légale et administrative (Premier ministre), 2018.

## Step-by-step approach

1. Verify that the procedure matches your situation  
This is a request that concerns only the **family name**.  
You must have **legitimate reason** to change this last name.  
The **procedure** is **different** if you want to carry the name of your parent who did not pass it on to you ( **simplified renaming procedure** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F36379?lang=en>)).  
However, using the Order-in-Council renaming procedure does not prevent you from requesting a name change later through the simplified procedure.

Similarly, having obtained a name change through the simplified procedure does not prevent you from subsequently using the name change procedure by decree.

**▲ Warning :** the procedure is different if you want bear the name of your spouse (usual name) (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F868?lang=en>) or if you want frank your first and last names by obtaining French nationality (francisation) (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F10528?lang=en>).

#### General case

You can ask to change your name for the following reasons:

- You have **difficult name** perceived as ridiculous or derogatory
- You carry a name that has been made famous in the media and that is **bad name**
- You **prevent extinction of** family name long-standing use in your family
- You **consecrate the constant and continuous use of a name** that you have used for a long time and that identifies you publicly. For example, you are a doctor known as Dr. Dupont, while the name on your passport is Durand.
- You and your **siblings** carry different names and you want **bear the same name**. You must have the same father and mother. Half-siblings are not accepted.
- You **avoid the consequences of the seriousness of the acts** for which your father or mother was convicted

Of **emotional reasons** may also, in exceptional circumstances, justify a change of name on legitimate grounds.

**▲ Warning :** if you want to change a foreign-sounding name, check to see if you need to francisation procedure (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F10528?lang=en>).

To have the same name as the foreigner

You can ask to change your name if you wish **have the same name in french civil registry** the name on your **foreigner birth certificate**.

You are concerned if you are a foreign national, or a binational person born in France, or a foreigner-born Frenchman.

You were born in France

Ask the town hall of your birthplace.

Who shall I contact

Specify your city or postcode The choice of a municipality in the suggestion list will automatically trigger an update of the content

- **City** (<https://annuaire.service-public.fr/>)

You were born in foreigner

If the Central Registry Office holds your birth certificate

Contact the Central Registry Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

Who shall I contact

- Central Registry Office (CECS) - Unification of French and foreigners names

#### By mail

Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs  
Central Registry Office  
Operating Department  
11 White House Street  
44941 Nantes Cedex 09

If Ofpra holds your birth certificate

Ask the Ofpra ( ) :

Who shall I contact

- French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (Ofpra)

#### On site

French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (Ofpra)  
201 Carnot Street  
94136 Fontenay sous Bois Cedex  
Public reception upon convocation

#### Phone

2.

## Check who should apply

The situation varies if the request for a name change concerns a person of age, a person of age and their minor children, or only minors.

In any case, you must have **French nationality**.

Répondez aux questions successives et les réponses s'afficheront automatiquement

### Major

Each major must request a change of family name **in his own name**.

Therefore **2 adults can't make a single request** to change their last name.

For example, siblings.

Every major must **build a personal file**.

The only exception concerns **protected** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/N155?lang=en>).

The procedure is **different** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F868?lang=en>) if you want to be named after your spouse.

### Major and minor children

Any French major may request a name change **for himself and his children**.

If you have passed your name to your children, they will also change their name if they are minors.

If the parents are separated and disagree (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F3133?lang=en>), the parent who wishes to apply for the name change must refer the matter to the Family Court.

If your minor children are over 13 years old, their written consent is required.

You can use the following agreement template:

---

### Consent to rename - Minor over 13 years

Ministry of Justice

Go to  
document template  
(<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42251>)

The procedure is **different** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F868?lang=en>) if you want to be named after your spouse.

### Renaming a minor

Anyone can ask to change the name of one of their own minor French children **without changing one's**.

For example, so that he bears the same name as his half-brothers and half-sisters.

The applicant parent does not have to be French.

However, the child concerned must have French nationality.

Only the following persons may apply:

- Minor's parents
- The minor's only parent
- Her guardian. In this case, the family council is necessary.

If the parents are separated and disagree (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F3133?lang=en>), the parent who wishes to apply for the name change must refer the matter to the Family Court.

If the minor is over 13 years of age, his/her written personal consent is required.

You can use the following agreement template:

Consent to rename - Minor over 13 years

Ministry of Justice

Go to  
document template  
(<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42251>)

3.

### Publish your application in the Official Journal of the French Republic (JORF)

Internet request

The request for publication at the JORF is made online.

The online service is accessible via a Service-Public account or FranceConnect.



Request for publication in the Official Journal of prior announcement of change of name for legitimate reason

Directorate of Legal and Administrative Information (Dila) - Prime Minister

Go to  
online service   
(<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R51235>)



**FYI** : you can also do this by mail or by mail. Publication time is longer, between 5 and 10 days. Your listing text must match a [template](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42498?lang=en) (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42498?lang=en>) precise. Also send the necessary information for invoicing (first and last name or business name if the request is made by an organisation, full detailed address).

Who shall I contact

▸ Official Journal - Request for Publication

**Email**

annonces.jorf@dila.gouv.fr

**By postal mail**

DILA, DIRE - OFFICIAL JOURNALS

ASD 71641

75901Paris CEDEX 15

Price

The cost is €110 by ad.

Publishing the ad automatically generates a €110.

The invoice is sent to you **email**.

The email specifies how to print the publication.

The invoice indicates the number and date of the JORF in which the advertisement was published.

Release time

**3 to 5 days.**

Edit or cancel your listing

You can request a change or cancellation of your listing **before publication in JORF**.

Send **email** as soon as possible, as publication takes place within 3 to 5 days of the online request.

Who shall I contact

▸ Official Journal - Request for Publication

**Email**

annonces.jorf@dila.gouv.fr

#### Post-publication ad access to JORF

To access your ad and have proof of its publication at JORF, you can download it for free from the home page of the [Légifrance site](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/) (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/>).

- ▶ Enter the date of the applicable FMV in the "Search for a FMV by Date or Period of Publication" section.
- ▶ Click on the link "Extract from the Official Journal containing the personal information (protected access)".
- ▶ Complete Captcha and click "Submit"
- ▶ Click on the "Download the document" link
- ▶ Print only the insertion page that contains your publication.

The signing certificate is embedded in the PDF.

You can therefore legally use the text once it has been printed.

If you want to stop renaming

Répondez aux questions successives et les réponses s'afficheront automatiquement

If your ad is not yet published in JORF

Send **an email as quickly as possible** to cancel your listing **forward** its publication in JORF.

Cancellation will not be possible after publication in JORF and you will have to pay the invoice.

Who shall I contact

- ▶ Official Journal - Request for Publication

#### Email

annonces.jorf@dila.gouv.fr

If your ad has already been published in JORF

Unpublishing is no longer possible.

You must pay the invoice €110.

 **FYI** : your JORF ad is one of the documents to attach to your name change request. If you do not send it to the Ministry of Justice, the renaming process stops automatically. Your marital status will not be changed.

4.

### Publish your request on a medium authorised to receive legal announcements

Choosing a support that can receive legal ads (Shal)

You need to post your ad on a platform that can receive legal ads (Shal) **your department** of residence.

One Shal () is either a Jal or an online press service.

You can use the official website of the legal ads to select a Shal:

 Search for support to post a legal ad (Shal) to post a family name change ad

Press Association for Economic Transparency (APTE)

Go to  
search   
(<https://actulegales.fr/>)

1/ Select your department on the map of France

2/ Select a Shal from the list.

3/ Contact the selected Shal to post your ad.

Name change announcement text

The **listing text** must respect **template** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42498?lang=en>) precise.

You must specify:

- Your current civil status
- If necessary, the civil status of your minor children concerned: surname, first names, date and place of birth
- Your Address
- The name(s) requested (you can indeed propose several names).

Price

The **price** the publication of the ad depends on several criteria: place of residence, age, number of persons.

5.

## Send your request to the Ministry of Justice

### Renaming a Major

You must send your name change request to the Minister of Justice.

It is not mandatory to use a lawyer.

Who shall I contact

- [Civil Affairs and the Seal Directorate \(https://annuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere\\_171333\)](https://annuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere_171333)

Your file must include the following documents:

- [Slip \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42252?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42252?lang=en) summarising all attachments to the folder. It indicates your name, your first names, your address, your telephone number, and possibly your email.
- Full copy of your [birth certificate \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1427?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1427?lang=en) less than 3 months old
- Copy of a document proving that you have French nationality: copy of the national identity card or passport, [certificate of French nationality \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1051?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1051?lang=en), declaration of acquisition of French nationality or copy of amplifying the naturalisation decree
- Bulletin No. 3 of [criminal record \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F14710?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F14710?lang=en)
- Printing [pdf file of the authenticated electronic OJ extract \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42789?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42789?lang=en)
- Full and original page(s) of [legal ad log \(JAL\) \(https://www.service-public.fr/professionnels-entreprises/vosdroits/F31972?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/professionnels-entreprises/vosdroits/F31972?lang=en). If the publication is dematerialised, the publication certificate issued by the newspaper, mentioning an internet link or a flash code to authenticate the publication.
- Query personal on free paper addressed to the minister of justice.  
It must be dated and signed.

It shall specify the reasons for abandoning the original name and the reasons for choosing the name requested.

If you are proposing several new names to the Minister, you must specify a priority. Attach any document that establishes the validity of your application (family booklet, judgements..).

If you wish to have a name in use in your family, you can provide a family tree. Attach copies of the civil registration documents of the persons listed in the document. Where these parts exist in only one original, a copy may be provided.

### Renaming a minor

File presented by both parents

You must send the name change request to the Minister of Justice.

It is not mandatory to use a lawyer.

Who shall I contact

- [Civil Affairs and the Seal Directorate \(https://annuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere\\_171333\)](https://annuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere_171333)

The file includes the following documents:

- [Slip \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42252?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42252?lang=en) summarising all attachments to the folder. It indicates your name, your first names, your address, your telephone number, and possibly your email
- Full copy of [birth certificate \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1427?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1427?lang=en) under 3 months
- Copy of a document proving that the child has French nationality: national identity card, passport, [certificate of French nationality \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1051?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1051?lang=en), declaration of acquisition of French nationality or amplifying the naturalisation decree
- If the minor is over 13 years of age, his or her written and signed agreement + a copy of an identity document signed by him or her (identity card, passport)
- Printing [pdf file of the extract of the Official Journal authenticated \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42789?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42789?lang=en)
- Full and original page(s) of [legal ad log \(jal\) \(https://www.service-public.fr/professionnels-entreprises/vosdroits/F31972?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/professionnels-entreprises/vosdroits/F31972?lang=en). If the publication is dematerialised, the publication certificate issued by the newspaper, mentioning an internet link or a flash code

to authenticate the publication.

- Full copy of the birth certificate of each parent less than 3 months old,

 **Please note** : if you want to change your child's surname despite the opposition of the other parent with whom you work together parental authority, you can go to the guardianship judge. You can use [form 5874 \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R50211?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R50211?lang=en) to make the request. The form gives access to an explanatory note of the procedure.

File submitted by one parent (parental authority of both parents)

You must send the name change request to the Minister of Justice.

It is not mandatory to use a lawyer.

Who shall I contact

- [Civil Affairs and the Seal Directorate \(https://lannuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere\\_171333\)](https://lannuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere_171333)

The file includes the following documents:

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- Full copy of [birth certificate \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1427?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1427?lang=en) under 3 months
- Copy of a document proving that the child has French nationality: national identity card, passport, [certificate of French nationality \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1051?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1051?lang=en), declaration of acquisition of French nationality or amplifying the naturalisation decree
- If the minor is over 13 years of age, his or her written and signed agreement + a copy of an identity document signed by him or her (identity card, passport)
- [Printing pdf file of the extract of the Official Journal authenticated \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42789?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42789?lang=en)
- Full and original page(s) of [legal ad log \(lal\) \(https://www.service-public.fr/professionnels-entreprises/vosdroits/F31972?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/professionnels-entreprises/vosdroits/F31972?lang=en). If the publication is dematerialised, the publication certificate issued by the newspaper, mentioning an internet link or a flash code to authenticate the publication.
- Full copy of birth certificate of each parent less than 3 months old
- Second parent's free paper agreement for renaming the child. Or, in case of disagreement, authorisation from the guardianship judge.

 **Please note** : if you want to change your child's surname despite the opposition of the other parent with whom you work together parental authority, you can go to the guardianship judge. You can use [form 5874 \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R50211?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R50211?lang=en) to make the request. The form gives access to an explanatory note of the procedure.

File submitted by a single parent (who alone exercises parental authority)

You must send the name change request to the Minister of Justice.

It is not mandatory to use a lawyer.

Who shall I contact

- [Civil Affairs and the Seal Directorate \(https://lannuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere\\_171333\)](https://lannuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere_171333)

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- Full copy of [birth certificate \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1427?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1427?lang=en) under 3 months
- Copy of a document proving that the child has French nationality: national identity card, passport, [certificate of French nationality \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1051?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1051?lang=en), declaration of acquisition of French nationality or amplifying the naturalisation decree
- If the minor is over 13 years of age, his or her written and signed agreement + a copy of an identity document signed by him or her (identity card, passport)
- [Printing pdf file of the extract of the Official Journal authenticated \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42789?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42789?lang=en)
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- Full copy of parent's birth certificate less than 3 months old
- If the other parent is deceased: full copy of death certificate

- ▶ If the exercise of parental authority is subject to a court order: copy of judgement conferring exclusive parental authority on the requesting parent or withdrawing parental authority from the other parent

File submitted by the guardian of the minor

You must send the name change request to the Minister of Justice.

It is not mandatory to use a lawyer.

Who shall I contact

- ▶ **Civil Affairs and the Seal Directorate** ([https://lannuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere\\_171333](https://lannuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere_171333))

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- ▶ Full copy of **birth certificate** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1427?lang=en>) under 3 months
- ▶ Copy of a document proving that the child has French nationality: national identity card, passport, **certificate of French nationality** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1051?lang=en>), declaration of acquisition of French nationality or amplifying the naturalisation decree
- ▶ If the minor is over 13 years of age, his or her written and signed agreement + a copy of an identity document signed by him or her (identity card, passport)
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- ▶ Full copy of **birth certificate** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1427?lang=en>) guardian less than 3 months old
- ▶ Permission family council

6.

## Wait for response from the Ministry of Justice

Statement

The Department of Justice Seal department is reviewing your file.

This service may request public prosecutor to investigate.

He may also seek the advice of the Council of State in case of difficulty.

 **FYI** : if you wish to withdraw your application, you must do so in writing within 2 months of sending your application.

Time

The time limit for obtaining a decision is **variable** depending on the complexity of the application.

Count several months, sometimes several years.

To find out how your file is progressing, you can contact the Civil Affairs and Seal Branch of the Ministry of Justice.

Who shall I contact

- ▶ **Civil Affairs and the Seal Directorate** ([https://lannuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere\\_171333](https://lannuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere_171333))

7.

## Receive your name change order

A decree concerning your name change is published in JORF.

A copy (or amplification) of the order **RAR** ().

The public prosecutor change your civil status documents.

If your vital documents have not been modified, you **have to ask the public prosecutor to correct them** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1811?lang=en>).

8.

### Make a possible appeal if your request is refused

If your request is denied, the refusal must be **motivated** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2473?lang=en>).

It is notified by registered letter AR ().

You **challenge the decision of refusal before the administrative court** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2478?lang=en>) within 2 months of notification.

The use of a lawyer is not mandatory.

Who shall I contact

- **Administrative Tribunal of Paris** ↗ (<http://paris.tribunal-administratif.fr/Informations-pratiques/Acces-et-coordonnees>)

Before challenging the decision to refuse before the Paris Administrative Court, you can **ex gratia** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2474?lang=en>) to the Minister of Justice.

However, you must present new elements for your appeal to be considered.

You must appeal without charge within 2 months of notification of the refusal decision.

If you make an application for leave of absence, the appeal to the Administrative Court is discontinued.

*Example :*

The Ministry of Justice notify a refusal on 4 April 2022 and you file an appeal without charge on 26 May 2021. Your appeal without charge is dismissed on 24 June 2022. You may refer the matter to the Administrative Judge until midnight on 25 August 2022. If the deadline expires on a Saturday, Sunday, holiday or nonworking day, the period shall be extended until 1<sup>st</sup> working day next.

9.

### Make sure no one disputes your name change

One third may object to your name change if it gives specific reasons.

For example, to protect your own surname.

The third party may send a letter to the Ministry of Justice.

He has to send his mail **after** publication in the JORF of your prior request but **forward** the publication in JORF of the decree concerning your name change.

Who shall I contact

- **Civil Affairs and the Seal Directorate** ([https://annuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere\\_171333](https://annuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere_171333))

If the decree concerning your name change has been published in JORF, the third party must initiate proceedings before the Council of State within 2 months of its publication in JORF.

- **Council of State** ↗ (<https://www.conseil-etat.fr/vos-demarches/contacts-et-informations-pratiques>)

To ensure that no third party objected to your change of name, you can contact the State Council.

The Council of State issues:

- Or a non-opposition certificate, if no one objected to your name change,
- A copy of the decision denying the opposition if the Council of State has refused the opposition of a third party to your name change.

If the Council of State cancels the order regarding your name change, you cannot renew your application unless you have exceptional new elements.

## You reside in the foreigner

### Step-by-step approach

1.

## Verify that the procedure matches your situation

This is a request that concerns only the family name.

You must have **legitimate reason** to change this last name.

The **procedure** is **different** if you want to carry the name of your parent who did not pass it on to you ( **simplified renaming procedure** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F36379?lang=en>)).

However, using the Order-in-Council renaming procedure does not prevent you from requesting a name change later through the simplified procedure.

Similarly, having obtained a name change through the simplified procedure does not prevent you from subsequently using the name change procedure by decree.

**▲ Warning :** the procedure is different if you want **bear the name of your spouse (usual name)** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F868?lang=en>) or if you want **frank your first and last names by obtaining French nationality (francisation)** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F10528?lang=en>).

### General case

You can ask to change your name for the following reasons:

- ▶ You have **difficult name** perceived as ridiculous or derogatory
- ▶ You carry a name that has been made famous in the media and that is **bad name**
- ▶ You **prevent extinction of** family name long-standing use in your family
- ▶ You **consecrate the constant and continuous use of a name** that you have used for a long time and that identifies you publicly. For example, you are a doctor known as Dr. Dupont, while the name on your passport is Durand.
- ▶ You and your **siblings** carry different names and you want **bear the same name** . You must have the same father and mother. Half-siblings are not accepted.
- ▶ You **avoid the consequences of the seriousness of the acts** for which your father or mother was convicted

Of **emotional reasons** may also, in exceptional circumstances, justify a change of name on legitimate grounds.

**▲ Warning :** if you want to change a foreign-sounding name, check to see if you need to **francisation procedure** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F10528?lang=en>).

To have the same name as the foreigner

You can ask to change your name if you wish **have the same name in french civil registry** that the name **your foreigner birth certificate**.

You are concerned if you are a foreign national, or a binational person born in France, or a foreigner-born Frenchman.

Ask the French Embassy or Consulate:

Who shall I contact

- ▶ **French Embassy or Consulate at the foreigner** [↗](https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/le-ministere-et-son-reseau/annuaire-et-adresses-du-ministere-de-l-europe-et-des-affaires-etrangeres-meae/ambassades-et-consulats-francais-a-l-etranger/) (<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/le-ministere-et-son-reseau/annuaire-et-adresses-du-ministere-de-l-europe-et-des-affaires-etrangeres-meae/ambassades-et-consulats-francais-a-l-etranger/>)

**▲ Warning :** if you want to change a foreign-sounding name, check to see if you need to **francisation procedure** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F10528?lang=en>).

2.

## Check who should apply

The situation varies if the person is an adult or a minor.

Répondez aux questions successives et les réponses s'afficheront automatiquement

Major

Each major must request a change of family name **in his own name** .

Therefore **2 adults can't make a single request** to change their last name.

For example, siblings.

Every major must **build a personal file**.

The only exception concerns **protected** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/N155?lang=en>).

The procedure is **different** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F868?lang=en>) if you want to be named after your spouse.

Major and children

Any French major may request a name change **for himself and his children** .

If you have passed your name to your children, they will also change their name if they are minors.

If your minor children are over 13 years old, their written consent is required.

You can use the following agreement template:

---

Consent to rename - Minor over 13 years

Ministry of Justice

Go to  
document template  
(<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42251>)

The procedure is **different** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F868?lang=en>) if you want to be named after your spouse.

Renaming a minor

Anyone can ask to change the name of one of their own minor French children **without changing one's**.

For example, so that he bears the same name as his half-brothers and half-sisters.

The applicant parent does not have to be French.

However, the child concerned must have French nationality.

Only the following persons may apply:

- ▶ Minor's parents
- ▶ The minor's only parent
- ▶ Her guardian. In this case, the family council is necessary.

If the minor is over 13 years of age, his/her written personal consent is required.

You can use the following agreement template:

---

Consent to rename - Minor over 13 years

Ministry of Justice

Go to  
document template  
(<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42251>)

3.

**Publish your application in the Official Journal of the French Republic (JORF)**

Internet request

The request for publication at the JORF is made online.

The online service is accessible via a Service-Public account or FranceConnect.

---

 Request for publication in the Official Journal of prior announcement of change of name for legitimate reason

Go to  
online service [↗](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R51235)  
(<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R51235>)

👉 **FYI** : you can also do this by mail or by mail. Publication time is longer, between 5 and 10 days. Your listing text must match a [template](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42498?lang=en) (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42498?lang=en>) precise. Also send the necessary information for invoicing (first and last name or business name if the request is made by an organisation, full detailed address).

Who shall I contact

- Official Journal - Request for Publication

**Email**

annonces.jorf@dila.gouv.fr

**By postal mail**

DILA, DIRE - OFFICIAL JOURNALS

ASD 71641

75901Paris CEDEX 15

Price

The cost is €110 by ad.

Publishing the ad automatically generates a €110.

The invoice is sent to you **email**.

The email specifies how to print the publication.

The invoice indicates the number and date of the JORF in which the advertisement was published.

Release time

**3 to 5 days.**

Edit or cancel your listing

You can request a change or cancellation of your listing **forward** publication in JORF.

Send **an email as quickly as possible** because the publication takes place within 3 to 5 days of the online request.

Who shall I contact

- Official Journal - Request for Publication

**Email**

annonces.jorf@dila.gouv.fr

Post-publication ad access to JORF

To access your ad and have proof of its publication at JORF, you can download it for free from the home page of the [Légifrance site](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/) [↗](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/) (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/>).

- Enter the date of the applicable FMV in the "Search for a FMV by Date or Period of Publication" section.
- Click on the link "Extract from the Official Journal containing the personal information (protected access)".
- Complete Captcha and click "Submit"
- Click on the "Download the document" link
- Print only the insertion page that contains your publication.

The signing certificate is embedded in the PDF.

You can therefore legally use the text once it has been printed.

If you want to stop renaming

Répondez aux questions successives et les réponses s'afficheront automatiquement

If your ad is not yet published in JORF

Email **as quickly as possible** to have your ad cancelled before it is published to JORF.

Cancellation will not be possible after publication in JORF and you will have to pay the invoice.

Who shall I contact

- Official Journal - Request for Publication

## Email

annonces.jorf@dila.gouv.fr

If your ad has already been published in JORF

Unpublishing is no longer possible.

You must pay the invoice €110.

 **FYI** : your JORF ad is one of the documents to attach to your name change request. If you do not send it to the Ministry of Justice, the renaming process stops automatically. Your marital status will not be changed.

## 4.

### Send your request to the Ministry of Justice

#### Renaming a Major

You must send a rename request:

- directly to the minister of justice,
- or via the French consulate or embassy which will transmit to the French Minister of Justice.

It is not mandatory to use a lawyer.

#### Who shall I contact

- **French Embassy or Consulate at the foreigner**  (<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/le-ministere-et-son-reseau/annuaire-et-adresses-du-ministere-de-l-europe-et-des-affaires-etrangeres-meae/ambassades-et-consulats-francais-a-l-etranger/>)
- **Civil Affairs and the Seal Directorate** ([https://lannuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere\\_171333](https://lannuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere_171333))

Your file must include the following documents:

- **Slip** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42252?lang=en>) summarising all attachments to the folder. It indicates your name, your first names, your address, your telephone number, and possibly your email.
- Full copy of your **birth certificate** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1427?lang=en>) less than 3 months old
- Copy of a document proving that you have French nationality: copy of the national identity card or passport, **certificate of French nationality** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1051?lang=en>), declaration of acquisition of French nationality or copy of amplifying the naturalisation decree
- Bulletin No. 3 of **criminal record** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F14710?lang=en>)
- Printing **pdf file of the authenticated electronic OJ extract** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42789?lang=en>)
- Full and original page(s) of **legal ad log (JAL)** (<https://www.service-public.fr/professionnels-entreprises/vosdroits/F31972?lang=en>). If the publication is dematerialised, the publication certificate issued by the newspaper, mentioning an internet link or a flash code to authenticate the publication.
- Query personal on free paper addressed to the minister of justice.  
It must be dated and signed.

It shall specify the reasons for abandoning the original name and the reasons for choosing the name requested.

If you are proposing several new names to the Minister, you must specify a priority. Attach any document that establishes the validity of your application (family booklet, judgements..).

If you wish to have a name in use in your family, you can provide a family tree. Attach copies of the civil registration documents of the persons listed in the document. Where these parts exist in only one original, a copy may be provided.

#### Renaming a minor

File presented by both parents

You must send a rename request:

- directly to the minister of justice,
- or via the French consulate or embassy which will transmit to the French Minister of Justice.

#### Who shall I contact

- **French Embassy or Consulate at the foreigner**  (<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/le-ministere-et-son-reseau/annuaire-et-adresses-du-ministere-de-l-europe-et-des-affaires-etrangeres-meae/ambassades-et-consulats-francais-a-l-etranger/>)
- **Civil Affairs and the Seal Directorate** ([https://lannuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere\\_171333](https://lannuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere_171333))

The file includes the following documents:

- [Slip](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42252?lang=en) (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42252?lang=en>) summarising all attachments to the folder. It indicates your name, your first names, your address, your telephone number, and possibly your email
- Full copy of [birth certificate](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1427?lang=en) (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1427?lang=en>) under 3 months
- Copy of a document proving that the child has French nationality: national identity card, passport, [certificate of French nationality](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1051?lang=en) (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1051?lang=en>), declaration of acquisition of French nationality or amplifying the naturalisation decree
- If the minor is over 13 years of age, his or her written and signed agreement + a copy of an identity document signed by him or her (identity card, passport)
- Printing [pdf file of the extract of the Official Journal authenticated](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42789?lang=en) (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42789?lang=en>)
- Full and original page(s) of [legal ad log \(lal\)](https://www.service-public.fr/professionnels-entreprises/vosdroits/F31972?lang=en) (<https://www.service-public.fr/professionnels-entreprises/vosdroits/F31972?lang=en>). If the publication is dematerialised, the publication certificate issued by the newspaper, mentioning an internet link or a flash code to authenticate the publication.
- Full copy of the birth certificate of each parent less than 3 months old,

 **Please note** : if you want to change your child's surname despite the opposition of the other parent with whom you work together parental authority, you can go to the guardianship judge. You can use [form 5874](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R50211?lang=en) (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R50211?lang=en>) to make the request. The form gives access to an explanatory note of the procedure.

File submitted by one parent (parental authority of both parents)

You must send a rename request:

- directly to the minister of justice,
- or via the French consulate or embassy which will transmit to the French Minister of Justice

Who shall I contact

- [French Embassy or Consulate at the foreigner](https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/le-ministere-et-son-reseau/annuaire-et-adresses-du-ministere-de-l-europe-et-des-affaires-etrangeres-meae/ambassades-et-consulats-francais-a-l-etranger/)  (<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/le-ministere-et-son-reseau/annuaire-et-adresses-du-ministere-de-l-europe-et-des-affaires-etrangeres-meae/ambassades-et-consulats-francais-a-l-etranger/>)
- [Civil Affairs and the Seal Directorate](https://annuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere_171333) ([https://annuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere\\_171333](https://annuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere_171333))

The file includes the following documents:

- [Slip](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42252?lang=en) (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42252?lang=en>) summarising all attachments to the folder. It indicates your name, your first names, your address, your telephone number, and possibly your email
- Full copy of [birth certificate](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1427?lang=en) (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1427?lang=en>) under 3 months
- Copy of a document proving that the child has French nationality: national identity card, passport, [certificate of French nationality](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1051?lang=en) (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1051?lang=en>), declaration of acquisition of French nationality or amplifying the naturalisation decree
- If the minor is over 13 years of age, his or her written and signed agreement + a copy of an identity document signed by him or her (identity card, passport)
- Printing [pdf file of the extract of the Official Journal authenticated](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42789?lang=en) (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42789?lang=en>)
- Full and original page(s) of [legal ad log \(lal\)](https://www.service-public.fr/professionnels-entreprises/vosdroits/F31972?lang=en) (<https://www.service-public.fr/professionnels-entreprises/vosdroits/F31972?lang=en>). If the publication is dematerialised, the publication certificate issued by the newspaper, mentioning an internet link or a flash code to authenticate the publication.
- Full copy of birth certificate of each parent less than 3 months old
- Second parent's free paper agreement for renaming the child. Or, in case of disagreement, authorisation from the guardianship judge.

 **Please note** : if you want to change your child's surname despite the opposition of the other parent with whom you work together parental authority, you can go to the guardianship judge. You can use [form 5874](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R50211?lang=en) (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R50211?lang=en>) to make the request. The form gives access to an explanatory note of the procedure.

File submitted by a single parent (who alone exercises parental authority)

You must send a rename request:

- directly to the minister of justice,
- or via the French consulate or embassy which will transmit to the French Minister of Justice.

Who shall I contact

- [French Embassy or Consulate at the foreigner](https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/le-ministere-et-son-reseau/annuaire-et-adresses-du-ministere-de-l-europe-et-des-affaires-etrangeres-meae/ambassades-et-consulats-francais-a-l-etranger/)  (<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/le-ministere-et-son-reseau/annuaire-et-adresses-du-ministere-de-l-europe-et-des-affaires-etrangeres-meae/ambassades-et-consulats-francais-a-l-etranger/>)

- [Civil Affairs and the Seal Directorate \(https://lannuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere\\_171333\)](https://lannuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere_171333)

The file includes the following documents:

- [Slip \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42252?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42252?lang=en) summarising all attachments to the folder. It indicates your name, your first names, your address, your telephone number, and possibly your email
- Full copy of [birth certificate \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1427?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1427?lang=en) under 3 months
- Copy of a document proving that the child has French nationality: national identity card, passport, [certificate of French nationality \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1051?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1051?lang=en), declaration of acquisition of French nationality or amplifying the naturalisation decree
- If the minor is over 13 years of age, his or her written and signed agreement + a copy of an identity document signed by him or her (identity card, passport)
- [Printing pdf file of the extract of the Official Journal authenticated \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42789?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42789?lang=en)
- Full and original page(s) of [legal ad log \(lal\) \(https://www.service-public.fr/professionnels-entreprises/vosdroits/F31972?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/professionnels-entreprises/vosdroits/F31972?lang=en). If the publication is dematerialised, the publication certificate issued by the newspaper, mentioning an internet link or a flash code to authenticate the publication.
  
- Full copy of parent's birth certificate less than 3 months old
- If the other parent is deceased: full copy of death certificate
- If the exercise of parental authority is subject to a court order: copy of judgement conferring exclusive parental authority on the requesting parent or withdrawing parental authority from the other parent

File submitted by the guardian of the minor

You must send the name change request to the Minister of Justice.

It is not mandatory to use a lawyer.

Who shall I contact

- [Civil Affairs and the Seal Directorate \(https://lannuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere\\_171333\)](https://lannuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere_171333)

The file includes the following documents:

- [Slip \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42252?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42252?lang=en) summarising all attachments to the folder. It indicates your name, your first names, your address, your telephone number, and possibly your email
- Full copy of [birth certificate \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1427?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1427?lang=en) under 3 months
- Copy of a document proving that the child has French nationality: national identity card, passport, [certificate of French nationality \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1051?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1051?lang=en), declaration of acquisition of French nationality or amplifying the naturalisation decree
- If the minor is over 13 years of age, his or her written and signed agreement + a copy of an identity document signed by him or her (identity card, passport)
- [Printing pdf file of the extract of the Official Journal authenticated \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42789?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42789?lang=en)
- Full and original page(s) of [legal ad log \(lal\) \(https://www.service-public.fr/professionnels-entreprises/vosdroits/F31972?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/professionnels-entreprises/vosdroits/F31972?lang=en). If the publication is dematerialised, the publication certificate issued by the newspaper, mentioning an internet link or a flash code to authenticate the publication.
  
- Full copy of [birth certificate \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1427?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1427?lang=en) guardian less than 3 months old
- Permission family council

5.

## Wait for response from the Ministry of Justice

Statement

The Department of Justice Seal department is reviewing your file.

This service may request public prosecutor to investigate.

He may also seek the advice of the Council of State in case of difficulty.

 **FYI** : if you wish to withdraw your application, you must do so in writing within 2 months of sending your application.

Time

The time limit for obtaining a decision is **variable** depending on the complexity of the application.

Count several months, sometimes several years.

To find out how your file is progressing, you can contact the Civil Affairs and Seal Branch of the Ministry of Justice.

Who shall I contact

- [Civil Affairs and the Seal Directorate \(https://annuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere\\_171333\)](https://annuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere_171333)

6.

### Receive your name change order

A decree concerning your name change is published in JORF.

A copy (or amplification) of the order RAR ().

The public prosecutor change your civil status documents.

If your civil registration documents have not been modified, you must ask the public prosecutor to correct them (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1811?lang=en>).

7.

### Make a possible appeal if your request is refused

If your request is denied, the refusal must be **motivated** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2473?lang=en>).

It is notified by registered letter AR ().

You **challenge the decision of refusal before the administrative court** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2478?lang=en>) within 2 months of notification.

The use of a lawyer is not mandatory.

Who shall I contact

- [Administrative Tribunal of Paris](http://paris.tribunal-administratif.fr/Informations-pratiques/Acces-et-coordonnees) ↗ (<http://paris.tribunal-administratif.fr/Informations-pratiques/Acces-et-coordonnees>)

Before challenging the decision to refuse before the Paris Administrative Court, you can **ex gratia** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2474?lang=en>) to the Minister of Justice.

However, you must present new elements for your appeal to be considered.

You must appeal without charge within 2 months of notification of the refusal decision.

If you make an application for leave of absence, the appeal to the Administrative Court is discontinued.

*Example :*

The Ministry of Justice notify a refusal on 4 April 2022 and you file an appeal without charge on 26 May 2022. Your appeal without charge is dismissed on 24 June 2022. You may refer the matter to the Administrative Judge until midnight on 25 August 2022. If the deadline expires on a Saturday, Sunday, holiday or nonworking day, the period shall be extended until 1<sup>st</sup> working day next.

8.

### Make sure no one disputes your name change

One third may object to your name change if it gives specific reasons.

For example, to protect your own surname.

The third party may send a letter to the Ministry of Justice.

He has to send his mail **after** publication in the JORF of your prior request but **forward** publication in JORF of the decree concerning your name change.

Who shall I contact

- [Civil Affairs and the Seal Directorate \(https://annuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere\\_171333\)](https://annuaire.service-public.fr/gouvernement/administration-centrale-ou-ministere_171333)

If the decree concerning your name change has been published in JORF, the third party must initiate proceedings before the Council of State within 2 months of its publication in JORF.

- [Council of State](https://www.conseil-etat.fr/vos-demarches/contacts-et-informations-pratiques) ↗ (<https://www.conseil-etat.fr/vos-demarches/contacts-et-informations-pratiques>)

To ensure that no third party objected to your change of name, you can contact the State Council.

The Council of State issues:

- Or a non-opposition certificate, if no one objected to your name change,
- A copy of the decision denying the opposition if the Council of State has refused the opposition of a third party to your name change.

If the Council of State cancels the order regarding your name change, you cannot renew your application unless you have exceptional new elements.

#### Statute and miscellaneous references

- Civil Code: Articles 60 to 61-4 [↗](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000006070721/LEGISCTA000006149971/#LEGISCTA000006149971)  
([https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section\\_lc/LEGITEXT000006070721/LEGISCTA000006149971/#LEGISCTA000006149971](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000006070721/LEGISCTA000006149971/#LEGISCTA000006149971))  
*Conditions for renaming (Articles 61 to 61-4)*
- Act No. 72-964 of 25 January 1972 on the francisation of the names and surnames of persons who acquire, recover or obtain recognition of French nationality [↗](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000000322317) (<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000000322317>)
- Decree No. 94-52 of 20 January 1994 on the procedure for changing the name [↗](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000000546000) (<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000000546000>)
- Order of 8 December 2014 fixing the amount of remuneration due in return for the services rendered by the Directorate of Legal and Administrative Information: Article 2-4 [↗](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000029878661) (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000029878661>)  
*Cost of an advertisement in the Official Journal of the French Republic*
- Circular of 26 July 2017 on various provisions in the field of human and family rights of Act No. 2016-1547 of 18 November 2016 (PDF - 566.9 KB) [↗](http://circulaire.legifrance.gouv.fr/pdf/2017/08/cir_42552.pdf) ([http://circulaire.legifrance.gouv.fr/pdf/2017/08/cir\\_42552.pdf](http://circulaire.legifrance.gouv.fr/pdf/2017/08/cir_42552.pdf))

#### Online services and forms

- Request for publication in the Official Journal of prior announcement of change of name for legitimate reason (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R51235?lang=en>)  
Online service
- Search for support to post a legal ad (Shal) to post a family name change ad (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R62005?lang=en>)  
Search
- Name change for legitimate reason: find an extract from the Official Journal (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42789?lang=en>)  
Online service
- Request for authorisation to change the name of a minor for legitimate reasons in case of disagreement of the parents (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R50211?lang=en>)  
Form
- Name change for legitimate reason: publication templates (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42498?lang=en>)  
Document template
- Attachment Slip for a Rename Folder (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R42252?lang=en>)  
Document template