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Surname, surname, usage name, marital name: what difference?

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Everyone has **family name** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F10505?lang=en>).

The surname appears on the birth certificate.

For example, your father's or mother's name.

The **family name** matches old **patronymic name**, expression now deleted.

Last name is the same as **birth name** except in case of name change (for example, after a **simple adoption** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2621?lang=en>) or **plenary** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2668?lang=en>), **for legitimate reasons** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1656?lang=en>) ...)

The **usage name** is used in everyday life.

The usage name is optional.



The usage name does not replace the last name.

You can use as a usage name:

- **The name of the person you are married to** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F868?lang=en>)
- **A double name consisting of your name and the name of the person you are married with** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F868?lang=en>)
- **A double name consisting of your name and the name of the parent who did not give you his name at birth** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1343?lang=en>)

The **marital name** is the name of your spouse or common-law partner that you use as your common-law name.

Statute and miscellaneous references

- Civil Code: articles 311-21 to 311-24-1  (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/id/LEGISCTA000006150015/>)
Choosing a family name for a child
- Civil Code: Articles 212 to 226  (<http://legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006136137&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070721>)
Use of spouse's or spouse's name as a usage name (section 225-1)