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## Can a married woman keep her surname ("maiden name")?

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Additional cases ? [Surname, surname, usage name, marital name: what difference? \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F35060\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F35060) / [Usage name: use of wife's or husband's name \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F868\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F868)

Yes, when a woman gets married, she keeps her family name..

She has no steps to take.

However, marriage allows each spouse [use the name of the other spouse or the double-name \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F868?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F868?lang=en) :: it is a **usage name**..

This is voluntary.

In all cases, each spouse keeps the name on his or her birth certificate. That name will always be on his papers.

### Statute and miscellaneous references

- Act No. 85-1372 of 23 December 1985 on the equality of spouses and parents: Rule 43 [↗ \(https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000000521293#LEGISCTA000006083855\)](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000000521293#LEGISCTA000006083855)
- Civil Code: Articles 212 to 226 [↗ \(http://legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006136137&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070721\)](http://legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006136137&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070721)  
*Use of spouse's name as a usage name (section 225-1)*
- Civil Code: Articles 263 to 265-2 [↗ \(https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/id/LEGIARTI000006423766\)](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/id/LEGIARTI000006423766)  
*In case of divorce (Article 264)*
- Circular of 26 June 1986 on the name of use [↗ \(http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jopdf/common/jo\\_pdf.jsp?numJO=0&dateJO=19860703&pageDebut=08245&pageFin=&pageCourante=08245\)](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jopdf/common/jo_pdf.jsp?numJO=0&dateJO=19860703&pageDebut=08245&pageFin=&pageCourante=08245)