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## Usage name: use of wife's or husband's name

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

It is possible to use the name of your husband or wife regardless of gender. We talk about *usage name*. Use of a usage name is optional and not automatic. On the other hand, if the spouse indicates that he or she wants to use this name, the authorities must use it. This name can be entered on the identity card and passport.

### Use name optional

Usage name and last name

Everyone has **family name** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F35060?lang=en>) (also called *birth name*).

Name **on your birth certificate**.

This could include the name of your father, or your mother, or the name of your father and mother next to each other.

However, it is possible to use a **other** called **usage name**.

This usage name **does not replace the last name** which remains the only name mentioned on civil registration documents: birth certificate, marriage certificate, family book...

Freedom of choice

The ability to use a usage name is **optional** and **not automatic**.

If you are married, you can use your spouse's name or only your own surname.

This is a **personal choice** that cannot be imposed on you.

### What usage name can be used?

Whether you are a man or a woman, you can use as **usage name** the **family name** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F35060?lang=en>) of the person you **are married**.

You can use as a usage:

- or family name **your spouse**,
- either **your surname next to your spouse's surname** in the order you want, and **limit of a family name for each**.

*Example :*

#### **Double name for each spouse**

Name of 1<sup>st</sup> spouse: BELIER GORCE

Name of 2<sup>nd</sup> spouse: MARTIN AUBERT

1<sup>st</sup> spouse may choose as the name of use: BELIER MARTIN, MARTIN BELIER, GORCE MARTIN, MARTIN GORCE, GORCE AUBERT, AUBERT GORCE, BELIER AUBERT, AUBERT BELIER, MARTIN AUBERT

*Example :*

#### **Name for each spouse**

Name of 1<sup>st</sup> spouse: BELIER-GORCE

Name of 2<sup>nd</sup> spouse: MARTIN-AUBERT

1<sup>st</sup> spouse may choose as the name of use: BELIER-GORCE MARTIN-AUBERT, MARTIN-AUBERT BELIER-GORCE, MARTIN-AUBERT

*Example :*

#### **Double Name of 1<sup>st</sup> spouse and name 2<sup>nd</sup> husband**

Name of 1<sup>st</sup> spouse: BELIER GORCE

Name of 2<sup>nd</sup> spouse: MARTIN-AUBERT

1<sup>st</sup> spouse may choose as the name of use: BELIER MARTIN-AUBERT, MARTIN-AUBERT BELIER, GORCE MARTIN-AUBERT, MARTIN-AUBERT GORCE, MARTIN-AUBERT

**Warning** : you cannot use the name of your partner or Civil partnership partner.

## Specifying the usage name on the papers

You can include your username following your surname on your ID: identity card and passport.

In this case, fill in **second of** application form (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F33640?lang=en>).

**FYI** : if you no longer want to use a usage name, when renewing the credential, just **leave blank *Second Name* application form**.

The **documents to be provided** depend on your situation.

You are married

For First Use

**For First Use** of the usage name, it is necessary to provide:

- either **birth certificate** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1427?lang=en>) (extract or full copy) less than 3 months in which the marriage is mentioned,
- or **full copy of marriage certificate** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1432?lang=en>) less than 3 months.

These documents are to be attached to your identity document application and to be provided at the same window.

*Example :*

If your name is MARTIN, the use name that consists of your spouse's or spouse's name (e.g. DUPOND) can be included on the identity document in one of the following ways:

- Name MARTIN spouses DUPOND'
- Name MARTIN DUPOND''
- Name MARTIN usage MARTIN DUPOND''
- Name MARTIN usage DUPOND MARTIN''

To continue using the name

To continue using a **usage name that is already on an identity document**, you have **no documents to provide**.

*Example :*

If your name is MARTIN, the usage name that consists of your spouse's or husband's name (e.g. DUPOND) can appear on the ID in one of the following ways:

- Name MARTIN spouses DUPOND'
- Name MARTIN DUPOND''
- Name MARTIN usage Martin DUPOND''
- Name MARTIN usage DUPOND MARTIN''

You are divorced

If your former spouse allows you to do so, you can continue to use her name or your two names beside her as the name of use, just like at your wedding.

This name will be preceded by the mention *use*.

To continue using this name, you must provide:

- the divorce judgement authorising you to bear the name of your former spouse, or
- written permission from your former spouse.

You're a widow

You can continue to use your current name without additional steps, be it your spouse's name or your two names next to each other.

If you want the *widower* or *widow* appear before the usage name, you must select this choice on the form.

You must also provide a death certificate.

**Please note** : there is no time limit for putting your name on your identification. You can do this **when you want**.


## Specifying the usage name on an official document

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


Upon your request, this name should be used by the administration in the letters it sends you.

The various organisations must be informed of the name of use chosen.

To inform health insurance and the Family Allowance Fund (Caf) at the same time, you can use an online service:

 Declaration of Change of Name (name of spouse)

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

Go to  
online service   
(<https://www.service-public.fr/compte/activer-un-espace-particulier?lienDemarche=https://psl.service-public.fr/mademarche/ChangementNomUsage/demarche>)

### Effect on children's last name

Choosing a usage name does not **no influence** on **family name** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F35060?lang=en>) of your common child.

So your child **can** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F10505?lang=en>) your name, that of your spouse or your 2 names.

This name may be the same or different from your usage name.

### How do you stop using your usage name?

Répondez aux questions successives et les réponses s'afficheront automatiquement

On the identity card or passport

If you no longer want to use a usage name on your ID or passport, **the procedure is done during renewal of identity document** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F21089?lang=en>).

Just leave the line blank *Second Name* of the application form.









On another official document

If you no longer want the usage name to be used on a document concerning your private, family, social or professional life, it is enough **inform your contacts**.

For example, your employer or mutual.

You don't need to provide a proof.

### 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>)
- Civil Code: Articles 212 to 226   
([https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section\\_lc/LEGITEXT000006070721/LEGISCTA000006136137/#LEGISCTA000006136137](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000006070721/LEGISCTA000006136137/#LEGISCTA000006136137))  
*Article 225(1): use of spouse's name*
- 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>)
- General Civil Registration Directive of 11 May 1999 (annexe)   
(<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT00000647915>)  
675-2
- Civil Code: Articles 263 to 265-2   
([https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section\\_lc/LEGITEXT000006070721/LEGISCTA000006165472](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000006070721/LEGISCTA000006165472))  
*Effect of divorce on use name (Section 264)*
- Civil Code: Articles 299 to 304   
([https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section\\_lc/LEGITEXT000006070721/LEGISCTA000006150009/#LEGISCTA000006150009](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000006070721/LEGISCTA000006150009/#LEGISCTA000006150009))  
*Effect of body separation on usage name*
- Ministerial Response of 15 November 2012 on the use of the name of their wife by married men   
(<http://www.senat.fr/questions/base/2012/qSEQ121002756.html>)
- Order of 1 June 2006 fixing the model family register   
(<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/LEGITEXT000006053798/>)

### Online services and forms

- Declaration of Change of Name (name of spouse) (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R19902?lang=en>)

