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Le site officiel de l'administration française

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Rename

Verified 18 July 2022 - Legal and Administrative Information Directorate (Prime Minister)

You **change first name** because he's hurting you? We tell you what changes to the first name are possible and how to apply.

You were born in France

What changes to the first name are possible?

You can request **changing your first name**.

Your first name or the connection between your first and last name is ridiculous or prejudicial to you, other people (parents, brothers, sisters, employers, colleagues...) call you by a first name other than your first name.

You can also ask:

adding a first name

deletion a first name

changing order of your first names.

FYI

The request for a change of name may be made separately or in conjunction with another process. For example, acquisition of French nationality (first name francisation) ([https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F10528?](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F10528?lang=en)

[lang=en](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F10528?lang=en))

change in the indication of sex on civil status documents ([https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F34826?](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F34826?lang=en)

[lang=en](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F34826?lang=en))

correction of a substantial error in a civil registration document ([https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1177?](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1177?lang=en)

[lang=en](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1177?lang=en))

Who makes the request?

Major

You make the request for yourself.

From 1st July 2022, **guardianship major** can ask to change your first name without being represented by your guardian.

Minor

The request must be made by legal representative.

If the child is over 13 years old, his agreement is necessary.

If the parents are separated and disagree ([https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F3133?](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F3133?lang=en)

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change of name must refer the matter to the Family Court.

, the parent who wishes to apply for the

How do I apply?

You live in France

You must go to **town hall of your place of residence** or **town hall where your birth certificate was made**

Of **forms-rename request types** are available in town halls.

You can download the circular of 17 february 2017 containing these standard forms (annexes 4 and following). (https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/download/file/pdf/cir_42004/CIRC)

One **application receipt** you are handed over.

You live abroad

You must submit your first name change request **the appropriate consular post**.

Of **forms-rename request types** are available in consulates.

You can download the circular of 17 february 2017 containing these standard forms (annexes 4 and following). (https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/download/file/pdf/cir_42004/CIRC)

Visit the consulates and embassy of the country where you live to find out your constituency.

One **application receipt** you are handed over.

What documents to provide?

For a major

Identity and Residence

Original full copy of your birth certificate (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1427?lang=en>), less than 3 months old

Part **identity** valid original

Justification **home** recent.

If you are hosted by another person, recent proof of residence of the person hosting you + certificate of honour (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R39697?lang=en>) the person who is hosting you certifying the accommodation.

Demand interest

Depending on your situation, you can provide the following documents:

Education

For example, a birth certificate, a copy of the health record, a copy of the family record, copies of the diplomas.

Professional life

For example, employment contract, certification of work colleagues (accompanied by ID), copies of business emails.

Administrative Life

For example, copies of old or current identification, invoices, tax notices, proof of domicile.

Personal Life (family, friends, leisure)

For example, family members' certificates of registration for a leisure activity.

You can also join **medical certificates** indicating the difficulties you encounter because of your first name.

Please note

This list **indicative**. Depending on your situation, you may provide additional documents.

Registration documents to be updated following the change of name

Depending on your situation, you must produce the original full copies of the following acts:

Act **marriage**

Act **birth** your **spouse** or **civil partnership partner**

Act **birth** of each **children**

For a minor

Applicant Identity

Depending on your situation, you must provide the following supporting documents:

Copy of a **partidentity** during the validity of the parent(s), legal representatives of the child

If necessary, proof that you are **legal representative of the minor** (copy of the joint declaration of exercise of parental authority, judicial decision of simple adoption, judicial decision ruling on parental authority, full copy of the death certificate of a parent, deliberation of the family council, decision of the department's services...)

Consent **under age 13** (form signed by the child + copy of a valid ID with the child's signature)

Applicant's Residence

You must provide proof of **home** recent.

If you are hosted by another person, you must provide a recent proof of residence for the person hosting you + certificate of honour (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R39697?lang=en>)

accommodation.

the person who is hosting you certifying the

Demand interest

Depending on the child's situation, you can provide the following documents.

Education

For example, a birth certificate, a copy of the health record, a copy of the family record, copies of the diplomas.

Personal life (family, friends, leisure)

For example, family members' certificates of registration for a leisure activity.

You can also join **medical certificates** establishing the difficulties the child encounters because of his or her first name.

Please note

This list **indicative**. Depending on your situation, you may provide additional documents.

Registration documents to be updated following the change of name

Act **birth** of the child

What are the effects?

Decision is **entered in the register of civil status**

Once the birth certificate has been updated, it is possible to **change identity documents** (identity card (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/N358?lang=en>)

passport (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/N360?lang=en>)).

How do I contest if the application is refused?

If registrar considers that your request has no legitimate interest, it must seize the **public prosecutor**.

The public prosecutor may accept or refuse your request for a change of name.

If the public prosecutor refuses your request, the decision is yours notified.

Read carefully the decision of the public prosecutor to find out how and when to appeal.

You can then challenge the decision with the **family affairs judge** (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2176?lang=en>)

The ___ competent authority shall be that of the court in which the prosecutor performs his duties.

You were born abroad

What changes to the first name are possible?

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You can also ask:

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change in the indication of sex on civil status documents (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F34826?lang=en>)

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Who makes the request?

Major

You make the request for yourself.

From 1st July 2022, **guardianship major** can ask to change your first name without being represented by your guardian.

Minor

The request must be made by legal representative.

If the child is over 13 years old, his agreement 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

change of name must refer the matter to the Family Court.

How do I apply?

You live in France

If you live in France, you must go to the **town hall of your place of residence**.

Of **forms-rename request types** are available in town halls.

You can

download the circular of 17 february 2017 containing these standard forms (annexes 4 and following).

(https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/download/file/pdf/cir_42004/CIRC)

Please note

If you **refugee, stateless person or beneficiary of subsidiary protection**, you should contact the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (**Ofpra**). You

download the circular dated 17 february 2017, which contains standard renaming application forms (annexes 4 and following).

(https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/download/file/pdf/cir_42004/CIRC)

You live abroad

You must submit your first name change request **the appropriate consular post**.

Of **forms-rename request types** are available in consulates.

You can

download the circular of 17 february 2017 containing these standard forms (annexes 4 and following).

(https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/download/file/pdf/cir_42004/CIRC)

Visit the consulates and embassy of the country where you live to find out your constituency.

One **application receipt** you are handed over.

What documents to provide?

For a major

Identity and Residence

Original full copy of your birth certificate(<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1427?lang=en>)

less than 3 months old

Partidentity valid original

Justification **home** recent.

If you are hosted by another person, recent proof of residence of the person hosting you + certificate of honour (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R39697?lang=en>)

accommodation.

the person who is hosting you certifying the

Demand interest

Depending on your situation, you can provide the following documents:

Education

For example, a birth certificate, a copy of the health record, a copy of the family record, copies of the diplomas.

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Applicant Identity

Depending on your situation, you must provide the following supporting documents:

Copy of a **partidentity** during the validity of the parent(s), legal representatives of the child

If necessary, proof that you are legal representative **minor** (copy of the joint declaration of exercise of parental authority, judicial decision of simple adoption, judicial decision ruling on parental authority, full copy of the death certificate of a parent, deliberation of the family council, decision of the department's services...)

Consent **under 13** : form signed by the child + copy of a valid identity document with the child's signature

Applicant's Residence

You must provide **proof of domicile** recent

If you are hosted by another person, you must provide a recent proof of residence for the person hosting you + certificate of honour (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R39697?lang=en>)

accommodation)

the person who is hosting you certifying the

Minor Identity

Original full copy of **birth certificate**, less than 3 months old

Partidentity valid original

Demand interest

Depending on the child's situation, you can provide the following documents.

Education

For example, a birth certificate, a copy of the health record, a copy of the family record, copies of the diplomas.

Personal life (family, friends, leisure)

For example, family members' certificates of registration for a leisure activity.

You can also join **medical certificates** establishing the difficulties the child encounters because of his or her first name.

Please note

This list **indicative**. Depending on your situation, you may provide additional documents.

Registration documents to be updated following the change of name

Act **birth** of the child

What are the effects?

Decision is **entered in the register of civil status**.

Once the birth certificate has been updated, it is possible to **change your credentials** (identity card (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/N358?lang=en>) , passport (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/N360?lang=en>)).

How do I contest if the application is refused?

If registrar considers that your request has no legitimate interest, it must seize the public prosecutor.

The public prosecutor may accept or refuse your request for a change of name.

If the public prosecutor refuses your request, the decision is yours notified.

Read carefully the decision of the public prosecutor to find out how and when to appeal.

You can then challenge the decision with the family affairs judge (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2176?lang=en>)

The ___ competent authority shall be that of the court in which the prosecutor performs his duties.

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 60 to 61-4

- (https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000006070721/LEGISCTA000006149971/#LEGISCTA000006149971)
First and Last Name Change

Code of Civil Procedure: sections 1055-1 to 1055-4

- (https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000006070716/LEGISCTA000006149725/#LEGISCTA000025191507)
First Name Change Procedure

- 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 February 17, 2017 for the presentation of article 56, I of the law n°2016-1547 of November 18, 2016 for the modernisation of justice of the XXIst century (PDF - 2.4 MB) (http://circulaire.legifrance.gouv.fr/pdf/2017/04/cir_42004.pdf)

- Circular of 10 May 2017 on the Law n°2016-1547 of 18 November 2016 of modernisation of justice of the XXIst century: change of name and change of sex in marital status (PDF - 177.2 KB) (http://circulaire.legifrance.gouv.fr/pdf/2017/06/cir_42281.pdf)

FAQ

- Can you cross your name and first name by becoming French? (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F10528?lang=en>)

Additional topics

- Choosing the child's first name (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F882?lang=en>)
Service-Public.fr

- Gender change in civil status (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F34826?lang=en>)
Service-Public.fr

- Updating the Family Book (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F18910?lang=en>)
Service-Public.fr

- Circular of 17 February 2017: rename request forms (https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/download/file/pdf/cir_42004/CIRC)

