

COWLITZ COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE
PETITION FOR SEALED NAME CHANGE – MINOR OR ADULT
Procedural Checklist

Prepared by the Cowlitz County Clerk's Office

This checklist is **not** a substitute for legal advice. Before starting any legal action, it is always wise to consult an attorney regarding your rights and responsibilities. Many attorneys offer low-cost consultations. Only an attorney can give legal advice.

You may purchase forms for this action at the Cowlitz County Clerk's Office. Our fees must be paid by cash, money order or cashier's check. We do not accept personal checks.

Pursuant to RCW 4.24.130(5)(a), name change petitions may be filed and shall be heard in any superior court in the state when a person desiring a name change:

- Is an emancipated minor under chapter 13.64 RCW; or
- Has received asylum, refugee, or special immigrant juvenile status; or
- Is related to gender expression of identity as defined in RCW 49.60.040; or
- Due to an experience of or reasonable fear of domestic violence, stalking, unlawful harassment, or coercive control as those terms are defined in RCW 7.105.010.

Fill out the following forms and file with the Clerk's Office with a \$310.00 (cash) filing fee:

Form Number	Form Name	Last Revised
FL All Family 001	Confidential Information Form (CIF)	1/2026
(Clerk Form)	Petition for Change of Name	2024
(Clerk Form)	Order for Change of Name	2024
(Clerk Form)	Order Sealing File	2024

In most cases, you may submit your paperwork to the judge for ex-parte review. If after review, the judge determines the matter should be set for a hearing, you will need to file a docket notice setting the matter to the Tuesday 1:00pm Confidential Adoption Docket. These docket notices are available on the Clerk's website at www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/clerk.

You will be responsible for notifying the Department of Licensing, Social Security and other state agencies of your name change. The Clerk's Office does not send notice for you. It is important to get several certified copies of the name change order so that you can provide copies to any agency that needs it.

Due to the confidential nature of these cases, access to the case file will only be granted upon the request of the person whose name change was granted or upon court order for good cause shown.

File all documents with: COWLITZ COUNTY CLERKS OFFICE
312 SW FIRST AVE, ROOM 233
KELSO, WA 98626