



Louisiana Department of Public Safety  
 Office of Motor Vehicles  
**Policy 22.00 Name Changes and Usage**

**Section:** 1. Issuance of Driver's License

**Effective Date:** 05/01/1996

**Revised Date:** 09/27/2023

**Authority:**

[R.S. 9:245](#)

[R.S. 9:292](#)

[R.S. 32:409.1](#)

To view Louisiana Statutes: <http://www.legis.state.la.us/>

**General:**

- You must change your name with the Social Security Administration **prior** to changing your name with the Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV). OMV will verify that the name change has been made with the Social Security Administration using online verification.
  - The turn-around time for the name to be changed on the Social Security database is approximately 24 hours.
- If you have two credentials (driver's license and identification card), the name must be consistent on both cards.
  - Name changes may only be processed on a valid credential. If a name is changed on an identification card, but the driver's license is suspended and/or expired, only the identification card name change will be processed. When the driver's license is reinstated and/or renewed, the name change will be processed to match the identification card.
- Altered documentation and/or copies of documents will **not** be accepted.

Name Usage Requirements	
Type	Requirements
<b>Unmarried Applicant</b>	The first, middle, and last name shall be the same as shown on the birth certificate or other document used for identification. <sup>1</sup>
<b>Married Applicant</b>	<p>The first name on the credential shall be the same as shown on the document used for securing the credential.<sup>2</sup></p> <p>The last name may be one of the following combinations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last name, as shown on the birth certificate<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Last name of the spouse, as shown on the original or certified marriage license<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• A combination of the two last names (hyphenated), as indicated on the marriage license</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> This applies to male or female. Either may opt to take the other spouse's surname.</p>
<b>Suffixes</b>	<p>The only suffix to be used will be specified on the birth certificate (or court order).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Example:</b> Roman numerals shall be used in the case of III, IV, etc. Unless a court order is provided, senior (SR) should not be used as a person is not (normally) born "Senior".</li> </ul>
<b>Punctuation or Titles</b>	<p>Other than the hyphen (-), no punctuation mark can be used in the name (i.e., J.J., D'Shea).</p> <p>No title can be added to the given name (first name) or after the surname (last name) (i.e., Dr., Mr., Mrs., M.D., PhD,). The applicant may, however, sign the license and/or identification card with the title if the applicant wishes to do so.</p>

### Required Documentation:

- Social Security Card with name change
  - When you change your name, you must get your name changed with Social Security Administration before you can change your name with the Office of Motor Vehicles.

Name Change Required Documentation (in addition to Social Security Documentation)			
Type	Description	Required Documentation	Notes
Court Ordered	Adoption of person over seventeen (17) years of age	Original, certified Court Order	Any name changes by religious orders for religious reasons will not be accepted, unless legal action has been taken to change their name.
	(Adoption of the minor must be by person of legal age (18 years or older))	Amended birth certificate, passport, or naturalization certificate  Notarial Act of Adoption, which must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indicate the name change (<a href="#">R.S. 9:461</a>, <a href="#">R.S. 9:462</a>)</li> <li>• Be properly notarized and filed</li> <li>• Be signed by the adoptive parents and natural parents, then presented together with a certified copy of the amended birth certificate</li> </ul>	
Adding a Married Name	Married within United States	Original, certified marriage certificate	
	Married Abroad	Original, certified marriage certificate  Translated marriage certificate, unless OMV personnel are able to translate	
Reverting to a Previous Name	Returning to birth certificate name, previous married name, or a combination of the two	<b>One</b> of the following is required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Original birth certificate</li> <li>• Original divorce decree</li> <li>• Marriage certificate from previous marriage</li> <li>• Social Security card or official notification of name change from the Social Security Administration</li> </ul>	

### Fees:

- **Driver's License** - If within **180** days of expiration, the applicant **may** renew the driver's license with the name change **or** perform the name change only.
  - **Renewal with a Name Change**– Applicable [renewal fees](#) apply.
  - **Name Change Only** – Applicable charges apply as a [duplicate license fee](#).
- **Identification Card** – If within **90** days of expiration, the applicant may renew the identification card with the name change **or** perform the name change only.
  - **Renewal with a name change**– Applicable [renewal fees](#) apply.
  - **Name Change Only** – Applicable charges apply as a [duplicate identification card](#) fee.
- Applicable fees will be charged for **each** credential that requires a name change.
- Name changes may only be processed on a valid credential. If a name is changed on an identification card, but the driver's license is suspended, only the identification card name change will be processed. When the driver's license is reinstated, the name change will be processed to match the identification card. Applicable fees will apply.

### Related Policies:

Section 1, Policy 6.00 [Identification Requirements](#)

Section 1, Policy 2.00 [Fees and Duration of License/ID Card](#)

**References:**

- <sup>1</sup> – Louisiana State Legislature. *Application or Special Certificate Applications; Penalties for False Information* (R.S. 32:409.1), retrieved from <https://legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=88389>.
- <sup>2</sup> – Louisiana State Legislature. *Surname of a Married Person* (R.S. 9:292), retrieved from <https://legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=181234>.
- <sup>3</sup> – Louisiana State Legislature. *Marriage Certificates* (R.S. 9:245), retrieved from <https://legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=107116>.