

Change of Name After Marriage

You do not have to get a legal name change to use your spouse's name as your last name. Instead, you can assume your spouse's name. "Assuming • a name is not a legal name change, so it does not change your birth certificate. Most people assume a name instead of undergoing a legal name change.

Please Note: The "Record of Solemnization of Marriage" is not a Marriage Certificate and is not a legal document. If you require legal proof of marriage, you may apply for a Marriage Certificate by completing the enclosed application form.

1. Assuming a Spouse's or Partner's Name

- Assuming a name due to a relationship is the most common practice in Canada.
- Once you are married, you may apply to change all your identification (health card, driver's licence, passport and banking information etc.) with your marriage certificate. You may assume your spouse's/partner's last name (surname) or a combination of your last name and your spouse's/partner's last name (hyphenated surname). It is really that simple.
- The benefit of not completing a legal; name change, is that it does not change the name on your birth certificate.
- If you wish to use your legal name again, you simply revert back by presenting your birth certificate as proof of your legal name.

OR

2. Electing to Change Your Name to a Spouse's or Partner's Name

- Individuals may choose to legally change their last name (surname) as a result of marriage or a common-law relationship by filling out an Election to Change Surname form.
- Couples living together in a conjugal relationship (common law) will also need to file a form called a Joint Declaration of Conjugal Relationship.
- These forms are available through Service Ontario.
- There is no fee for this type of name change, if it is made at the time of the marriage or at the time of filing a Joint Declaration of Conjugal Relationship.

Please be aware that if you elect to legally change your name and were born in Ontario, your last name (surname) as it appears on your birth certificate will change. Your birth certificate will show your new name and your previous last name. If you wish to revert back to your previous name at any time, you will need to contact the Office of the Registrar General to complete another name change.

Amending Your Identification

Some Institutions or Ministries may require you to have a Marriage Certificate and will not accept the Record of Solemnization of Marriage in order to change your name. Personal identification may be required when requesting a name change. Please contact the agencies below for further information.

Bank Accounts:	To change your name for your banking needs
Ontario Driver's License and Ontario Health Card:	Service Ontario Location at 203 Cayley Street, Walkerton
Social Insurance Number:	Service Canada Centre, 200 McNab Street, Walkerton
Photo Card:	Service Ontario Location at 203 Cayley Street, Walkerton