

# CHANGING YOUR NAME

Service members desiring to change their names must do so by petitioning the court for a change of name. The beginning of this process should include a call to your local Military Legal Assistance Office. Ask to schedule an appointment to speak to a Legal Assistance Attorney. This will allow you to go over any questions or concerns you may have in reference to the act of legally changing your name prior to doing so. Contact information can be located at this web address: <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil/content/locator.php>

## **There are two ways to change your name**

- The 1<sup>st</sup> method is through court petition. All necessary forms are located at your County Superior Court. These forms may also be available at their websites.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> is through court order. This happens through obtaining the name change through legal actions such as divorce, adoptions or obtaining U.S. citizenship.

The forms necessary can be located at the site below.

<http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-namechange.htm>

More information on changing your name in Monterey County California can be obtained at this web link: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/1051.htm>

The 3<sup>rd</sup> way of changing a name in California is by using the usage method. This cannot be used by service members or family members that want to change their name on military records.

In addition anyone in California that is a minor or inmate or on parole may not use this method. See §1279.5 of California Code of Civil Procedure. <http://law.onecle.com/california/civil-procedure/1279.5.html> if you would like to obtain more detailed information.

The most widely accepted and recommended method of name change is through petition, unless the name changes resulted from a court order or decree.

Reminder: This handout is not to be considered legal advice. Seek the advice of your Legal Assistance Attorney before beginning any legal process.

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