



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: 02/14/2018

Authority:

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

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

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

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

Requirements:

- **Unmarried Applicant:** The first name, middle name, and last name shall be the same as shown on the birth certificate or other document used for identification.
- **Married Applicant:**
 - The first name on the operator's license shall be the same as shown on the document used for securing the license.
 - The last name may be either the applicant's last name as shown on the birth certificate or the last name of the spouse as shown on the original or certified marriage license, or a combination of the two last names (hyphenated) as indicated on the marriage license.
 - This applies to male or female; i.e., either may opt to take the other spouses surname (Joe Doe marries John Brown so he may use Joe Doe Brown. or Joan Smith marries John Black so she may use Joan Smith Black.).
 - An applicant may always choose to return to a birth certificate name. Whichever name is chosen, it is to be consistent on both the driver's license and ID card.
 - Social Security Online Verification is required for a name change for all customers. The customer's name must be changed with Social Security prior to making application at OMV. The turnaround time for the name to be changed on the Social Security database is approximately 24 hours.
- **Request to return to a previous name:**
 - A customer may return to their birth certificate name, previous married name, or a combination of the two.
 - They may also elect to use a combination of their birth certificate name, previous married name, and/or current married name. No court order is required.

- A copy of the marriage license or divorce decree (to verify the marriage) should be required.
- Whichever name is chosen, it is to be consistent on both the driver's license and ID card.
- **Complete or partial name change:**
 - An applicant must have a judgment signed by a judge and filed with the Clerk of Court's office OR in cases of persons over the age of seventeen (17) being adopted by persons over the age of eighteen (18), the applicant may present a certified copy of a notarial act of adoption as provided by R.S. 9:461 and 462 indicating a name change.
 - This notarial act of adoption must be properly notarized and filed, signed by both adoptive parents and natural parents, and presented together with a certified copy of the corrected birth certificate.
 - Any name changes by religious orders for religious reasons will not be accepted unless legal action has been taken to change their name.
- **Court ordered name changes:** A court order is required to return to the original birth name.
- **Use of punctuation marks or titles:**
 - Other than the hyphen (-), no punctuation mark can be used in the name (i.e., J.J., D'Shea).
 - 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 he wishes to do so.

Related Policies:

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

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