

**OFFICE OF THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE  
48<sup>TH</sup> FIGHTER WING, RAF LAKENHEATH, UK  
Building 1082, DSN 226-3553**



**NAME CHANGES**

**1. I recently married and my spouse has a child from a previous marriage/relationship. Can we get the child's last name changed to my own?**

Yes, but you will need to get a court order in the child/custodial parent's state of residence. Note that both legal parents of the child must consent to the name change.

**2. I recently married a woman with a child from a previous marriage/relationship. Because I am adopting the child, with consent of my wife and the biological father, can I change the child's last name to my own?**

Yes. Simply let the attorney know who is handling the adoption paperwork know. There should be an entry on the adoption petition, which allows you to request that the child's name be changed.

**3. I want to change my own name. How do I go about this?**

You will need to file a petition to have your name changed in your state of legal residence. Note that you simply cannot change your name in order to evade debt collectors. You can either hire an attorney in that state or you might be able to do it yourself. If you think you might want to do it yourself, contact your local court's clerk in your state of legal residence - the clerk might be able to provide you with all the necessary information to get you through the process.

Note that changing your name with the court does not automatically change it on all your documents (*i.e.*, Social Security Card, driver's license, military identification, credit cards, etc.). You will need to change your name with each agency and provide proof of your name change.

**4. My wife and I are getting divorced. Can she resume using her maiden name?**

Yes. It is fairly common for a woman to request the resumption of her maiden name when she gets divorced. If she is the plaintiff, the party filing for divorce, then she can request it in her complaint. If you are filing and she is the defendant, she can respond to your complaint by filing an answer and counterclaim requesting the resumption of her maiden name. The decree of divorce signed by the judge will state that your wife is allowed to resume the use of her maiden name.

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### **AF Legal Assistance Website**

For more information about the topics above, go to <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>, select Legal Information, then “Family Law” and then “Name Change.”

Additionally, you can call or email us to schedule an appointment to meet with an attorney at the RAF Lakenheath legal office.

### **RAF Lakenheath Legal Assistance App**

For a copy of this pamphlet, as well as other helpful pamphlets, please go to the 48 FW Phone App, click on “J.A.G.” at the bottom, and then click on “forms and documents.”

### **RAF Lakenheath Legal Office Hours**

Legal Assistance/Wills (**By appointment only**)

*Tuesday 0900-1100 and Thursday 1300-1500*

Call **0163852-3553 (226-3553)** or email [48fw.ja@us.af.mil](mailto:48fw.ja@us.af.mil)

Powers of Attorney/Notary Service (No appointment necessary).

*Monday-Wednesday & Friday 0830 – 1530; Thursday 0930-1530*