

# Changing Your Name

**Waiver: These instructions and forms are just information. They are not legal advice.** Legal advice depends on the specific circumstances of each situation. The information contained in this document is not guaranteed to be up to date. The information cannot replace the advice of an attorney licensed to practice law.

## What forms will I need to change my name?

You will need to fill out and file the following forms to change your name:

- Petition for Name Change
- Notice of Hearing on Name Change Petition

The **Petition for Name Change** asks the Court to change your name.

The **Notice of Hearing on Name Change Petition** will be filled out by the Clerk of Tribal Court when you file your Petition. You will need to publish this Notice in the CharKoosta for four weeks in a row.

## What words do I need to know?

**Petitioner-** A Petitioner is someone who files an action in Court. You will be the Petitioner in this case.

**Notice of Hearing-** As the Petitioner, you will be required to give the public notice of the hearing on your name change. You must publish notice of the hearing in the CharKoosta for four weeks in a row. You must bring the Court a receipt or some other proof that you gave notice before a hearing can be held on your name change.

## Who can use the forms?

You can use these forms if you:

- Want to change your name;
- Are over 18 years old; and
- Are not changing your name to avoid debt, hide a criminal record, or for any other improper reason.

## What do I do with the forms?

- 1 Fill out the forms
  - Fill out all the blanks on the Petition for Name Change.
  - Sign and date your Petition in front of a Notary Public.
  - Fill out the top part of your Notice of Hearing, but leave the rest of the form blank for the Clerk of Tribal Court to fill out.
- 2 Make copies
  - Make one copy of each form after you have filled them out.
- 3 File forms at the Tribal Court
  - Go to the Clerk of Tribal Court's office. File your original Petition for Name Change with the Clerk and ask her to fill out the Notice of Hearing form.
  - If you cannot afford the filing fees, ask the Clerk for a fee waiver application.
  - Give your copies to the Clerk and ask her to stamp them as 'Filed.' Keep your copies in a safe place
- 4 Publish the Notice of Hearing
  - After the Clerk fills out your Notice of Hearing, take it to the CharKoosta office and ask them to publish the body of the document for four weeks in a row. There will be a fee for publication.
  - Get a receipt or other proof that your Notice of Hearing was published. You will need to show this proof to the Court at your hearing.
- 5 Go to your hearing
  - Bring your stamped copies of the papers you filed with the Court.
  - Arrive at Court at least 15 minutes before your scheduled hearing and check in with the Clerk. Dress like you were going to an important job interview.
  - Be prepared to tell the judge why you want to change your name.

- Important:** Immediately after your hearing, go to the Clerk of Tribal Court's office. Ask the Clerk for **certified copies** of the Court's Order. You will need the certified copies to get a new driver's license, birth certificate, and social security card.

**Where can I get more information?**

The Laws of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes contain the law on changing your name. The law related to changing your name can be found in Title III, Chapter 1, Section 112. CSKT Laws Codified can be found online at [www.cskt.org/gov/court-triballawcode.htm](http://www.cskt.org/gov/court-triballawcode.htm)

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Your Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Your Mailing Address*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City State Zip*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Your Telephone Number*

**Petitioner Pro Se**

**IN THE TRIBAL COURT OF THE CONFEDERATED SALISH & KOOTENAI TRIBES  
OF THE FLATHEAD RESERVATION, PABLO, MONTANA**

IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF: )

\_\_\_\_\_, )  
(*your name now*) )

\_\_\_\_\_, )  
Petitioner. )

) Cause No. \_\_\_\_\_

) **PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE (adult)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
I would like this Court to change my name. I am an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe and have lived on the Flathead Indian Reservation for more than 90 (ninety) days before filing this Petition for Name Change.

**1. Your Information**

A. Your Name Now: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Birthplace (*City and State*): \_\_\_\_\_

D. Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E. Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

F. Tribal Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

G. Enrollment Number: \_\_\_\_\_

H. Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Your New Name**

I would like this Court to change my name from (*your name now*):

\_\_\_\_\_

to (*new name*):

\_\_\_\_\_.

**3. Reason for Name Change**

I would like this Court to change my name because: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

I am not changing my name to avoid debt, hide a criminal record, or for any other improper reason.

**4. Notice of Hearing**

I will provide notice to the public of my name change by publishing the Notice of Hearing on my Petition for Name Change for four weeks in a row in the CharKoosta News, a newspaper printed in Lake County, Montana on the Flathead Indian Reservation. After publication, I will provide proof to the Court that the Notice was published.

**5. Changes to Birth Certificate**

I would like to have my Montana birth certificate changed to reflect this name change.

I was not born in Montana.

**I respectfully ask this Court to:**

1. Change my name as requested above;
2. Schedule a hearing to decide this matter;
3. Direct the Clerk of Court to send certified copies of the Order for Name Change to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Records Manager for the Confederated Salish

and Kootenai Tribes (*if petitioner is enrolled CSKT*), and the Bureau of Vital Statistics for the State of Montana (*if petitioner was born in Montana*);

- 4. If Petitioner was born in Montana, direct the Bureau of Vital Statistics for the State of Montana to change my birth certificate changing my name from (*your name now*) \_\_\_\_\_ to (*new name*) \_\_\_\_\_; and
- 5. For such other and further relief that the Court may deem just and proper.

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Petitioner

STATE OF MONTANA )  
  : ss  
County of \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_, being first duly sworn on oath, says that he/she is the Petitioner in the above-entitled proceeding, that he/she has read the foregoing Petition and knows the contents thereof, and that the facts stated therein are true to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Petitioner

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

(NOTARY SEAL)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public for the State of Montana  
Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residing at: \_\_\_\_\_  
My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

