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“Thank you so much for choosing me to be such a big part of your amazing day.”

Xx Jay



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HOW TO CHANGE YOUR NAME



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Reviews

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You have two options



In my experience as a marriage celebrant, up to 90% of newly-married brides (and a few pioneering grooms) still choose to change their last name after marriage and are super confused about how to go about it.

It's a *real* process that can take around 8 hours over several days or weeks to complete. And this is because every company or institution have their own unique processes and can't share your details with anyone else. Let's see if I can help a little..

There are two main ways you can change your name after marriage:

1. Do It Yourself (DIY): Allocate a chunk of time to contact a company, learn their change of name process, complete any paperwork required, provide proof and then times by 25 (or more, if that's how many places are on your list)!

2. Get ready-to-send forms: If you're not a fan of giving up your lunch hours to do research and paperwork, I recommend [Easy Name Change](#). They provide step-by-step instructions for all the institutions and companies on your list ([choose your companies](#) here) and a personalised pack of ready-to-send notifications, including letters, emails and company forms. Attach your marriage certificate, sign and send!

It's worth noting that no matter which way you go, you'll still need to visit some places in person.

I've listed my top hacks and tips to save you time and minimise frustration! I'll also explain the choices available for your new name.



“ Lets keep it simple
Option 1 or option 2 ”



What does it mean to change my name in Australia



After you are married you have the right to use or be identified by, your spouse's last name, *if you choose*.

Or you may simply keep your last name as it is, even if you are married!

If you choose to use your spouse's last name (or you are creating a new double-barrelled or hyphenated surname containing both of your last names), you are assuming a new last name.

This is not a legal change of name, and as such, a change of name through your State/Territory's Births Deaths and Marriages office does not need to occur.

If you decide to use your spouse's last name after marriage, you'll need to inform all the organisations, institutions and companies that you deal with and provide them with a copy of your official marriage certificate from Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM) where necessary (different to the ceremonial/presentation certificate I provide on your wedding day).

You may also need to send in a letter, form or email depending on their processes for your accounts/records/ID to be changed accordingly.

While the process of informing all these organisations of your preferred new last name is commonly referred to as 'changing your name', it doesn't require a legal name change application to be lodged or any other legal steps to be taken. Common companies to inform include the Department of Motor Transport for your licence & vehicle registrations, the passport office, banks, ATO, Medicare, superannuation, insurance, loyalty clubs, subscriptions, road tolls etc.

Create your own FREE customised online name change checklist [HERE](#).



“ Take a name,
Hyphenate a name the
choice is yours ”



“ what you want to create a whole new married name? You can do that too ”

What options do I have after marriage



You have **3 options for a married name change.**

For these changes, you'll need your official BDM marriage certificate as evidence and your spouse doesn't need to have the same surname:

Take your spouse's last name. For example, if Michelle Jones married Andrew Williams, Michelle could change her name to Michelle Williams and/or Andrew could change his name to Andrew Jones.

Create a double-barrelled surname. The 2 surnames can appear in either order and be separated by either a space or hyphen. For example, the double-barrelled surname options for Michelle and Andrew would be Jones Williams or William Jones. And the hyphenated option of these would be Jones-Williams or William-Jones. Either Michelle, or Andrew, or both of them could make this change.

Use both your original/maiden last name and your spouse's last name in different circumstances. For example, Michelle may want to continue to be known professionally as Michelle Jones, but personally, she may choose to update her passport, driver's license and bank accounts to Michelle Williams. Care should be taken with this option as it can be difficult to navigate the two names in situations such as international travel, tax obligations and home/business ownership.

Please note that as each of the state/territory offices of the Department of Transport/Roads/Motor Vehicles operates independently and the answer you get from each can depend on who you speak with, some couples have been told that a double-barrelled surname option is not permitted.

My hot tip in this circumstance is to email the department before you attend in person. Then you can take a copy of the email with you to confirm you can make this change. It generally requires two emails, as the first reply to an email that contains the term 'name change' seems to trigger an automated response. It's only when you go back and push them to read the question again that they will answer it in person.



What if we want an entirely different name?



You can change your surname name to an entirely different last name after marriage, but if it is not one of the 3 options detailed above, then you would need to go through a legal change of name process via the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM) in the state or territory you were born in.

This process also allows you to change any part of your given name/s.

If both of you decide that you want to change to an entirely new last name, it's easiest for one of you to legally change surnames before the wedding, then the other spouse can use their official BDM marriage certificate to assume their spouse's surname.

How long do I have to change my last name?

While it is common for a last name change by marriage to take place within a few months of a wedding, there is no time frame requirement.

A spouse can change from their birth surname to their married last name the day the BDM marriage certificate arrives or 10 years after the wedding!

And you can revert back to your birth surname at any time, regardless of your marital status.

Once you're married and have decided to change your last name, it's your responsibility to get all your accounts, memberships and identification moved over into your new name.

Should you plan to travel in Australia or overseas within 2-3 months of your wedding date (e.g. for your honeymoon), it is recommended that you keep all travel details (plane tickets, visas, accommodation etc.) in your original/maiden last name and all your I.D./documentation the same until after you return home.

Some couples have experienced difficulties in trying to prove their married last names without an updated driver's licence or passport and most airlines charge a change of name fee of several hundreds of dollars.



“ Take note if you plan to travel in the next 2-3 months. Just wait until you get back ”



What about the pretty Certificate?

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Can I use the marriage certificate that we received on our wedding day to change my last name?

The marriage certificate story is a long and boring one, but here goes..

The certificate that you receive on your wedding day is known as a *presentation or commemorative certificate* and is generally not accepted by most institutions as an official form of identification. This means that it can rarely be used as proof of your right to take your husband/wife/spouse's last name after marriage.

After your celebrant/religious minister lodges your paperwork with the BDM in the state or territory where your marriage was solemnised, they go about processing your marriage registration.

It is only after this process has taken place, that you are able to [apply for an official BDM marriage certificate](#). Although you will not be notified of exactly when your marriage registration is complete, the process is meant to take around 4 weeks which can fluctuate during peak times.

Please note that Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM) offices do not automatically send you a copy of your official BDM marriage certificate - you need to [apply for it either online](#), via a form through the post, or in person.

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“ The commemorative certificate is not the legal one ”



How do I change my name after marriage?



How do I change my last name after marriage?

Whether you do it yourself or get a company like [Easy Name Change](#) to help you, the process is quite similar.

1. **Order your official BDM marriage certificate** from the state of territory where your marriage was solemnised.
2. **Take some photocopies of your photo ID under your old name before** you apply to change it. Old driver's licences often need to be surrendered, so it can help to have a copy should you need to prove your old last name before you receive the new photo ID.
3. **Get some photo ID (driver's licence or proof of age card) in your new name as soon as possible.** Some companies accept undated photo ID as sufficient evidence as proof of name change.

4a. **For those using a name change kit:**

You'll receive a personalised checklist that has each of your chosen companies and explains their name change process.

Send the forms, letters and emails - in many cases, you can just attach your marriage certificate and email/post.

4b. **For those choosing to DIY:**

Make a list of each institution/company where you want/need to change your last name. Create your own FREE customised online name change checklist [HERE](#).

Search online or contact each company to learn what their name change procedure is. You may be asked to return a specific form, send a letter with a certified copy of your official BDM marriage certificate, visit a branch in person or a mixture of these.

Make note of the procedure and record the date of when you sent them the information they require to make the name change. If the name change does not occur, you may need these details to follow up with them.



“ On the last page you can save \$5 off the name change kit and keep is easy ”



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“ Lets talk vows or as I call them promises. This is your moment and your words, just be you, they can be different and if you don't read each others before it is even more magical”

Changing drivers licence

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- Your name change always needs to be requested in person. Some states have special forms.
- It can be useful to make your driver's licence one of the first forms of I.D. you change as you may be able to use your updated license to prove your name has changed when dealing with other companies.
- Most states make it free to have your driver's license changed, but your old license must be surrendered. (WA customers have a small charge)
- All states require your original name change document (official BDM marriage certificate) and your current driver's licence. You may get a new photo taken.
- If you can't present a valid license when making the change you will be required to present a number of other identification documents and may need to pay a replacement fee.

NSW [Roads & Traffic Authority](#)
[Roads & Traffic Authority name change information](#)
Phone 13 22 13

QLD [Department of Transport](#)
[QLD license name change information](#)
Phone 13 23 80



Changing Australian Passport



You must have an official BDM marriage certificate or BDM relationship certificate and your current passport.

It is advisable to also have changed your last name on your driver's licence prior to applying for a new passport.

If you were married overseas you will need to provide your foreign marriage certificate with an approved translation (if applicable) and your current passport.

Your passport will be updated with your new name, however the expiry date will remain as per your existing passport (providing you have 2 years remaining)

It's free to update your passport for any name change resulting from a change in relationship provided you have more than 2 years validity remaining, otherwise you must apply for a 10 year replacement passport and [full fees](#) are payable.

Applications must be made [online](#). You need to save and print this out once completed.

All applicants will also need to lodge their application at the post office in person. Book your interview time [online](#) or call 13 7678.

If you are wanting to change your last name on your Australian passport, it is advisable to obtain a new driver's licence first, as this may be requested as additional proof.



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Changing Medicare Card



It's easiest to change names over the phone by calling 132 011. Be ready to provide the registration number from your wedding certificate. Your name is updated on the spot.

If you prefer, send a letter or email but the change will take 4 weeks longer. Your Medicare number does not change, so you can continue to use your card while you wait for the new one to arrive. It takes about 3 weeks.

You and your spouse may both want to be on the same card. The purpose of having multiple people listed on one card is so that Medicare benefits can be paid to any person whose name appears on the card. It's also handy when you have children.

This requires the Medicare Transfer Form to be completed and sent in by post or email. It's a separate process to a change of name, but can be done at the same time.



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The ATO



You can update your name online, over the phone, by mail or in person. If you have the ATO linked to myGov, log in and navigate to 'My Profile' > 'Personal Details'. Click the link to update your name and provide the registration number from your BDM marriage certificate.

You can change names over the phone by calling 13 28 61 during business hours. You will be asked to provide information to verify your identity, so before calling ensure you have the following Australian documents information at hand; BDM birth certificate or Australian citizenship certificate, passport, driver's license, Medicare card, BDM marriage certificate.

You can change names with the ATO by mail by returning the '[ATO Change of Details for Individuals](#)' form with certified copies of the documents listed on the form.

You may instead visit any ATO shopfront with your original BDM marriage certificate and photo ID to have your name changed on the spot.



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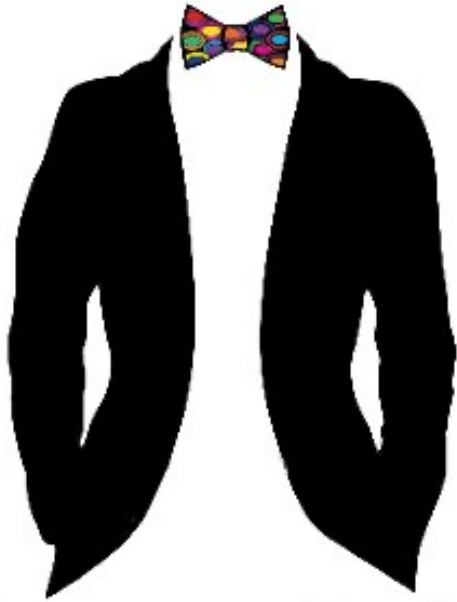
Easy Name Change

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Easy Name Change

1. Order your official marriage certificate from Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM) first.
2. Get photo ID in your new name as soon as possible. Some companies accept updated photo ID as proof of name change.
3. Take some photocopies of your photo ID under your old name before changing. Driver licenses often need to be surrendered, so it can help to have a copy should you ever need to prove your old name.
4. Set aside a day or two to get all your name change notifications done at once and visit the necessary places in person. Name changes that drag out can occupy a lot of head space and cause problems if you need to prove your identity.
5. Set a deadline for your name change. Aim to get all your accounts, memberships and paperwork into your new name within a month of starting.
6. If it is all too time consuming and confusing Easy Name Change can provide you with ready-to-send name change notifications, forms and procedures for all your nominated companies. No need to do any calling around or name change research.

Get started at www.easynamechange.com.au and enter promo code CHECKLIST to **save \$5 off any name change kit.**



MARRIED BY JAY

I'M HERE FOR YOU



If you have any questions, need help or just want to say "Hi" I always have my phone on me for texts and emails and will get back to you ASAP

If anything is an "emergency" Text me



"Remember to stop and breathe, enjoy the planning process"



CONTACT

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CELEBRANT