

Married by Sheryl



TRIANGLE CEREMONIES

COMPLETE GUIDE: CHANGING YOUR LAST NAME

1. Obtain certified copies of your marriage certificate.

After the officiant returns your completed marriage license and it has been recorded, order at least two or three **certified copies** from the Register of Deeds office that issued your marriage license. Regular photocopies are usually not accepted for legal name changes. Useful links/forms include:

[Find a North Carolina Register of Deeds office](#)

[North Carolina marriage-certificate ordering information](#)

Ordering directly from the county Register of Deeds is usually the fastest option.

2. Consider any upcoming travel before changing your identification.

The name on your airline reservation should match the identification or passport you will use. When honeymoon reservations are under your previous name, it may be easier to wait until after the trip to update your driver's license and passport.

3. Change your name with Social Security first.

Request a replacement Social Security card showing your new legal name. Depending on your situation, you may be able to begin or complete the process online. Otherwise, Social Security will direct you to schedule an office appointment. Useful links/forms include:

[Start a Social Security name change](#)

[Form SS-5: Application for a Social Security Card](#)

[Find a Social Security office](#)

You will generally need:

- a. A certified marriage certificate
- b. A current, unexpired driver's license, state ID, or passport
- c. Form SS-5, when completing the process by mail or in person
- d. Citizenship or immigration documents, if requested

Social Security accepts original documents or copies certified by the issuing agency. Regular photocopies and notarized photocopies are not accepted. There is no fee for changing your name or receiving a replacement Social Security card. After the request is processed, the new card generally arrives within 5–10 business days.

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4. Wait at least 24–36 hours, then update your North Carolina driver's license.

NCDMV must verify your new name through the Social Security system. North Carolina requires you to notify NCDMV and obtain an updated driver's license or state ID within **60 days** of your name change. Useful links/forms include:

[NCDMV name-change instructions](#)

[Schedule an NCDMV appointment](#)

[Find an NCDMV driver license office](#)

[Form DL-101: Affidavit for Name Change](#)

Bring:

- a. Your current North Carolina driver's license or ID
- b. A certified marriage certificate
- c. A completed and notarized DL-101 form
- d. The current \$16.75 replacement-license fee

The name change must be completed in person. Your new license will keep the same expiration date as your current license.

5. Update your vehicle title and registration.

When a vehicle is titled or registered in your name, update it after receiving your corrected driver's license. Useful links/forms include:

[NCDMV vehicle name-change instructions](#)

[Form MVR-5: Corrected or Substitute Title Application](#)

[Find an NCDMV license plate agency](#)

Complete Form MVR-5 and take it to a license plate agency with your corrected driver's license, vehicle title if available, and the required fee. The form may require notarization.

6. Update your employer, banks, and important accounts.

Once Social Security and your driver's license have been updated, notify organizations such as:

- a. Your employer and payroll department
- b. Banks and credit-card companies
- c. Mortgage lender or landlord
- d. Retirement and investment accounts

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- e. Health, auto, home, and life insurance companies
- f. Healthcare providers
- g. Utility and cellphone providers
- h. Schools, memberships, and professional licensing boards

Each organization has its own requirements, but many will request your updated photo ID and a certified marriage certificate.

7. Update your passport.

Use the Department of State's name-change guide to determine the correct form.

Helpful links/forms include:

[Passport name-change instructions](#)

[Passport forms and form filler](#)

[Passport fee calculator and form guide](#)

Use:

- a. Form DS-5504 when both your passport and legal name change are less than one year old. There is generally no standard processing fee.
- b. Form DS-82 when more than one year has passed and you qualify to renew.
- c. Form DS-11 when you do not qualify to renew and must apply in person.

You will generally need your current passport, a certified marriage certificate, a new passport photo, and any required fees.

8. Update your North Carolina voter registration.

A voter-registration name change cannot currently be completed through NCDMV's online voter-registration service. Complete the North Carolina voter-registration form and send it to your county Board of Elections. Helpful links/forms include:

[North Carolina Voter Registration Application](#)

[Instructions for updating voter registration](#)

[Find your county Board of Elections](#)

Existing registered voters may submit the signed update by mail, email, fax, or in person to their county Board of Elections.

9. Update any remaining records.

Remember to update other accounts that apply to you, including:

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- a. TSA PreCheck or Global Entry
- b. Airline and hotel loyalty accounts
- c. Professional licenses
- d. Military or veterans' records
- e. Legal documents and estate plans
- f. Property deeds
- g. Social-media and email display names
- h. Emergency-contact information

Keep at least one certified marriage certificate in a safe place for future use.

Note: The above information is provided as a courtesy by Sheryl Alemany and as such, Sheryl Alemany will not be responsible for any mistakes made when changing your last name nor for the accuracy of provided information.