

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO

—
H.P. 1407 - L.D. 1900

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Name Changes

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 18-C MRSA §1-701, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2021, c. 14, §1, is further amended to read:

2. ~~Notice and name~~ Adult's name change; adults; notice. Upon receipt of a petition filed by an adult under subsection 1, paragraph A, the court, ~~after due notice~~, may change the name of ~~the person who is an~~ that adult. ~~To protect the safety of the person for whom the name change is sought, the court may limit the notice required if the person shows by a preponderance of the evidence that the person is currently in reasonable fear of the person's safety. The court may not require public notice before approving the name change.~~

Sec. 2. 18-C MRSA §1-701, sub-§2-A, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 14, §1, is amended to read:

2-A. Notice and name change; minors. A parent or guardian who has filed a petition under subsection 1, paragraph B or has requested a name change in a District Court proceeding under subsection 1, paragraph C shall provide notice pursuant to the applicable rules of procedure to any other parent, any guardian and any person or agency with legal custody of the minor; to the guardian ad litem if one is currently appointed; and to the minor if the minor is 14 years of age or older, ~~but does not need to publish notice of the minor's name change unless the court orders that notice of the name change of the minor be published due to the specific circumstances of the case.~~ To protect the safety of the minor for whom the name change is sought, the court may limit notice required under this subsection if the parent who has sole parental rights and responsibilities shows by a preponderance of the evidence that:

- A. The minor is a victim of abuse; or
- B. The minor or petitioner is currently in reasonable fear of the minor's or petitioner's safety.

Sec. 3. 18-C MRSA §1-701, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2021, c. 14, §1, is further amended to read:

3. Record. The court shall make and preserve a record of a name change. ~~If the court limited the notice required under subsection 2 or 2-A, the~~ The court may make the record of the name change confidential or not public.