# Changing your name after the wedding: the order

Namewise

United States · checked against official pages on 23 Nov 2026 · free from Namewise by AS Apps Studio

**Before you start:** get certified copies of your marriage certificate from the office that issued it. Social Security takes only originals or copies certified by the issuing agency, not photocopies or notarized copies.[4] Your passport application sends the certificate away too (it comes back by mail),[8] so more than one certified copy saves waiting.

## 1 Social Security free · do this first

SSA recommends updating your name with them before you go to the motor vehicle office.[2] The service and the card are free.[5]

**Online** if all of these are true:[1] your marriage certificate is from one of these 21 states: Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware*, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Virginia, Wisconsin*, Wyoming; you are a U.S. citizen with citizenship already on your SSA record; you are 18 or older; you have a my Social Security account; only your last name changes; you have a U.S. mailing address; and you have a current driver's license or state ID from a participating state. *Delaware and Wisconsin: driver's license holders only. SSA has said to wait at least 30 days after the marriage before applying online.[6]

**Otherwise** fill in Form SS-5 and take or mail it to a Social Security office[5] with: proof of your name change (your marriage document), an identity document (U.S. driver's license, state ID or U.S. passport), and proof of citizenship only if SSA does not already have it.[4]

Your new card comes by mail in 5 to 10 business days after SSA completes your request.[3]

## 2 Driver's license or state ID after SSA has your new name

Each state sets its own rules: documents, fee, deadline, and whether you must go in person. Open your state's official page in the table on page 3 before you book. Take your certified marriage certificate and your current license.

## 3 Passport the form depends on when your passport was issued

- **Issued less than a year ago** (and your name changed within that year): Form DS-5504. No fee unless you ask for expedited service or 1-2 day delivery. Send your passport, a certified marriage certificate and one 2x2 inch color photo.[7]
- **Renew by mail with Form DS-82** if all of these are true: you can send your most recent passport; you were 16 or older when it was issued; it was issued less than 15 years ago; it is not damaged, lost or stolen; and you can send a certified name change document.[8]
- **Otherwise apply in person with Form DS-11.**[9]
- Online passport renewal is not for name changes.[10] Original documents you send with a DS-82 are returned by mail.[8] The forms are free from the U.S. Department of State.

## 4 Everyone else

- **Employer and payroll.** The IRS says newlyweds should give their employer a new Form W-4 within 10 days, and the name on your tax return must match Social Security records.[11]
- **Voter registration.** Update it with your state after a legal name change.[12]
- **TSA PreCheck.** Contact the enrollment provider you applied with.[14] **Global Entry and other Trusted Traveler programs:** see the program FAQ for a name change.[15]
- **Medicare,** if you have it: your card shows the name Social Security has on file.[13]

- Banks and credit unions
- Credit and debit cards
- Health, car, home and life insurance
- Doctors, dentist and pharmacy
- Retirement and investment accounts, beneficiaries
- Lease or mortgage, utilities, phone
- Car title and registration
- Airline, hotel and store loyalty programs
- Professional licences
- Email, social and shopping accounts

Not legal advice. Namewise and AS Apps Studio are not affiliated with the Social Security Administration, the U.S. Department of State or any government agency. Rules change: always check the official page. Numbers like [1] point to the sources on page 2.

## Sources

Every fact on page 1 comes from one of these official pages, read on 23 Nov 2026. Where a site blocked our reader, we used its archived copy or the text of its own search result, and say so.


1. SSA policy manual POMS RM 10205.630, online name change states and conditions (effective 10/08/2024, read 23 Nov 2026). secure.ssa.gov/poms.nsf/lnx/0110205630
2. SSA blog, "Did You Get Married This Year and Want to Change Your Name? Start with Social Security", 22 Oct 2026. www.ssa.gov/blog/en/posts/2026-10-22.html
3. SSA, "Change your name" (card by mail in 5 to 10 business days). www.ssa.gov/life-events/change-name
4. SSA, documents for a Social Security card (originals or certified copies, proof of name change). www.ssa.gov/ssnumber/ss5doc.htm
5. SSA Form SS-5 (12-2024), Application for a Social Security Card ("free", take or mail it to an office). www.ssa.gov/forms/ss-5.pdf
6. SSA advocates notice, 8 Aug 2024 (wait at least 30 days after the marriage). www.ssa.gov/news/en/advocates/2024-08-08.html
7. U.S. Department of State, Form DS-5504 (04-2025) instructions. eforms.state.gov/Forms/ds5504_pdf.PDF
8. U.S. Department of State, Form DS-82 (04-2025) instructions. eforms.state.gov/Forms/ds82_pdf.PDF
9. U.S. Department of State, Form DS-11 (04-2025) instructions. eforms.state.gov/Forms/ds11_pdf.PDF
10. travel.state.gov, renew online (not for a name change; search result text). travel.state.gov/en/passports/renew-replace/online.html
11. IRS Tax Tip 2026-54, "Marriage means making changes before next filing season", 7 Jul 2026. www.irs.gov/newsroom/marriage-means-making-changes-before-next-filing-season
12. vote.gov, register to vote. vote.gov/register
13. Medicare.gov, your Medicare card. www.medicare.gov/basics/get-started-with-medicare/using-medicare/your-medicare-card
14. TSA FAQ, my personal information has changed (search result text). www.tsa.gov/travel/frequently-asked-questions/my-personal-information-has-changed-how-do-i-update-my
15. Trusted Traveler Programs FAQ (search result text). ttp.dhs.gov/faq



**Want it done with you?** Namewise is an iPhone app that turns this order into your own plan, fills your passport form on your phone and reminds you of the next step. Your details stay on your iPhone. asapps.studio/namechange

## Your state's driver's license agency

The official name change page of each agency. "SSA online" marks the states whose marriage certificates qualify for the online Social Security name change (step 1). Links checked 23 Nov 2026; many state sites block automated checks, so if a link has moved, search the agency's own site.

| State | Agency | Official page | SSA online |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Alabama** | Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) Driver License Division | alea.gov | |
| **Alaska** | Alaska Division of Motor Vehicles | dmv.alaska.gov | |
| **Arizona** | Arizona MVD (ADOT Motor Vehicle Division) | azdot.gov | |
| **Arkansas** | Arkansas DFA Office of Driver Services<br>No name change page; this is the state's name change affidavit form. | dfa.arkansas.gov | **Yes** |
| **California** | California DMV | dmv.ca.gov | |
| **Colorado** | Colorado DMV | dmv.colorado.gov | **Yes** |
| **Connecticut** | Connecticut DMV | portal.ct.gov | **Yes** |
| **Delaware** | Delaware DMV (Division of Motor Vehicles) | dmv.de.gov | **Yes*** |
| **District of Columbia** | DC DMV | dmv.dc.gov | |
| **Florida** | Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV) | flhsmv.gov | |
| **Georgia** | Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) | dds.georgia.gov | **Yes** |
| **Hawaii** | City and County of Honolulu Department of Customer Services<br>Honolulu (Oahu). Hawaii, Maui and Kauai counties run their own offices. | honolulu.gov | **Yes** |
| **Idaho** | Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) DMV | itd.idaho.gov | **Yes** |
| **Illinois** | Illinois Secretary of State | ilsos.gov | |
| **Indiana** | Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) | in.gov | |
| **Iowa** | Iowa DOT | iowadot.gov | **Yes** |
| **Kansas** | Kansas Department of Revenue, Division of Vehicles | ksrevenue.gov | |
| **Kentucky** | Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (Drive.ky.gov) | drive.ky.gov | **Yes** |
| **Louisiana** | Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles | expresslane.la.gov | |
| **Maine** | Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles | maine.gov | **Yes** |
| **Maryland** | Maryland MVA | mva.maryland.gov | **Yes** |
| **Massachusetts** | Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles | mass.gov | |
| **Michigan** | Michigan Secretary of State | michigan.gov | **Yes** |
| **Minnesota** | Minnesota Driver and Vehicle Services | dps.mn.gov | |
| **Mississippi** | Mississippi Driver Service Bureau | driverservicebureau.dps.ms.gov | |
| **Missouri** | Missouri Department of Revenue | dor.mo.gov | **Yes** |
| **Montana** | Montana Motor Vehicle Division | mvdmt.gov | **Yes** |
| **Nebraska** | Nebraska DMV | dmv.nebraska.gov | **Yes** |
| **Nevada** | Nevada DMV | dmv.nv.gov | |
| **New Hampshire** | NH Division of Motor Vehicles | dmv.nh.gov | |
| **New Jersey** | New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission | nj.gov | |
| **New Mexico** | New Mexico MVD | mvd.newmexico.gov | |
| **New York** | New York DMV | dmv.ny.gov | |
| **North Carolina** | NCDMV | ncdot.gov | |
| **North Dakota** | North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) | dot.nd.gov | **Yes** |
| **Ohio** | Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) | bmv.ohio.gov | |
| **Oklahoma** | Service Oklahoma | oklahoma.gov | |
| **Oregon** | Oregon DMV | oregon.gov | |
| **Pennsylvania** | PennDOT Driver and Vehicle Services | pa.gov | |
| **Rhode Island** | Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles (RI DMV) | dmv.ri.gov | **Yes** |
| **South Carolina** | South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (SCDMV) | dmv.sc.gov | |
| **South Dakota** | South Dakota Department of Public Safety, Driver Licensing Program | sd.gov | **Yes** |
| **Tennessee** | Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security, Driver Services | tn.gov | |
| **Texas** | Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) | dps.texas.gov | |
| **Utah** | Utah Driver License Division (DLD) | dld.utah.gov | |
| **Vermont** | Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) | dmv.vermont.gov | |
| **Virginia** | Virginia DMV | dmv.virginia.gov | **Yes** |
| **Washington** | Washington State Department of Licensing (DOL) | dol.wa.gov | |
| **West Virginia** | West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles (WV DMV) | dmv.wv.gov | |
| **Wisconsin** | Wisconsin DMV (WisDOT) | wisconsindot.gov | **Yes*** |
| **Wyoming** | Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) Driver Services | dot.state.wy.us | **Yes** |

*Delaware and Wisconsin: online SSA name change for driver's license holders only.[1] Not legal advice. Not affiliated with any government agency.