

Change a name

Information for young people



This fact sheet is for **young people under 18 years**. It will help you find out what you need to know about changing your name.

Help

If you need help:



A Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM) team member can explain the process of changing your name to you. You can talk to us by phoning **132 842**.



BDM's Marguk-bulok koolin-ik Team (Aboriginal Outreach) is available to support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people to access BDM services. You can email them at **bdm.koori@justice.vic.gov.au**



You can ask someone you trust to help you apply.



Your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) can read more about changing a name at **bdm.vic.gov.au**

What is a change of name?

Your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may apply to change your legal name.

This means that if you were born in Victoria, they ask BDM to change the name on your birth certificate to a new name.

If you were born overseas, they can ask BDM for a change of name certificate that shows your new name.

They can apply to change:

- Your given names (first or middle names)
- Your family name (last name)
- Both your given names(s) and family name.

They may ask us to change it to a name you're already using, or a new name.

If you were born interstate, your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) can ask the BDM in that state to change the name on your birth certificate to a new name. They can't apply to BDM Victoria.



What is the process?



Apply

Your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) need to apply to BDM, asking to change your name.

They can apply:

- Online at bdm.vic.gov.au
- Using a paper form and mailing it to BDM
- In person at a Justice Service Centre. You can find a Justice Service Centre near you at justice.vic.gov.au

If they need a paper form, they can call 132 842.

They will need to give us some documents and pay for the application.

If they're experiencing hardship, they can ask us not to charge the fee for certain certificates or registrations. This is called a [fee waiver](#).



Agree

If you are 12 years of age or older and agree to the name change, you need to tell us you **agree** to it.

To show that you agree, you'll need to sign a consent form (available at bdm.vic.gov.au) in front of an adult who isn't your parent or legal guardian.

If you are 12 years or older and you don't agree to the name change, we won't change your name.



Review

BDM will look at the information sent in with your application.

This may take some time.

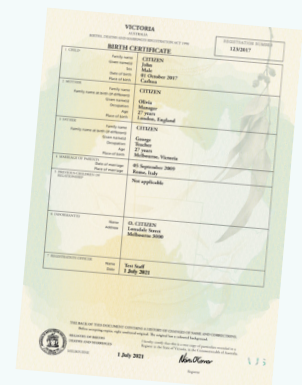
We will contact your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) if we have any questions or need more information.

Certificate

If we approve the application, we will send your parent(s) or guardian(s) a certificate.

If you were **born in Victoria**, you'll get a new birth certificate. It will show your old name and your new name

If you were **born outside Victoria**, you'll get a change of name certificate. It will show your old name and your new name.





Delivery times

This process takes time.

We'll post your certificate to the address you put in your application.

Check our current processing times at bdm.vic.gov.au if you want to know more.



Update documents

The new name on your certificate is your new legal name. It's the name you'll need to use in the community, and on documents or in records.

You and your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) will need to update your identity documents and records to your new name.

These documents or records may include:

- A bank account
- Passport
- Learner permit
- School identity card.

To do this, you or your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) can show your certificate.

For example, show your certificate to your school so they can update their records.