

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONSENT OF PARENT TO MINOR CHILD NAME CHANGE IN WYOMING

Before You Get Started

If you are the parent of a Minor Child (a child who is younger than 18 years old), and another adult (called the Next Friend) has started a court case to change that child's name, you might choose to sign a Consent form. It's important to understand that you do not have to sign the form.

If you sign the form and file it with the Clerk of District Court, it can make the name change process easier for the child and the Next Friend. But you will also give up your right to be involved in the process and your right to be notified about what is happening in the case. You will need to think carefully about whether you want to sign the form.

At the end of these instructions, there is a list of resources that you can use if you have questions about the name change process, your rights, and the Consent form.

If you decide to fill out the form, these instructions can help.

The top of the page on the Consent of Parent.

The top of the page has blanks for the name of the county that the Court is in (for example, County of Big Horn) and the number of the judicial district (for example, Fifth Judicial District). There is also a blank for the case number.

If you have a copy of the Petition and Affidavit from this case, you can copy the information from that document. (The Case Number might contain letters.)

If you do not have a copy of the Petition and Affidavit, you can ask the Next Friend or the Clerk of District Court for help with this part of the form.

The next blanks are for the name of the Minor Child and the name of the Next Friend. Write the current full legal name of the child on the first blank. (Do not use the new name here, even if it is already the name the child uses.) Write the Next Friend's full name on the second blank.

After that will be the title of the document. It's written between the two long bars on the page. The title tells the Court that the child's parent is consenting (agreeing) to this name change.

Section 1.

Write your full name on the blank line in this section.

Section 2.

This section is a statement that tells the Court you are a legal parent of the child.

Important Note: The information you give to the Court must be completely true. If you are not a natural (biological) parent or adoptive parent of the child, you cannot use this form.

Section 3.

In this section, you tell the Court that you know about the Petition to change the child's name. On the blank line, write the full name that the child will have if the change is approved.

Sections 4 through 8.

Read each of these sections very carefully. You will not write anything in these sections, but you must be sure you understand all of them. You must also be sure that you agree with everything in these statements.

If you sign this form, you will be telling the Court that you understand and agree to everything that is written in these sections.

The Signature Section.

Do not sign this form until you are in front of the Clerk of Court or a Notary. The Clerk or Notary must witness you signing the form.

By signing the form, you are telling the Court that everything on the form is true. If the information is not true, you might be criminally charged with perjury. Perjury is a felony punishable by imprisonment or a fine or both.

Review your answers carefully before you sign the Consent form.

On the line labelled DATED, write the date you are signing the form.

Sign your name on the signature line.

Print your name neatly. Write in your email address, your phone number, and your mailing address.

The Clerk or Notary will fill out the last part of the form.

Filing the Consent.

The Consent form must be filed with the Clerk of District Court. You can do that yourself or the Next Friend can do it.

It's a good idea to keep a copy of the form (or a clear picture of it) for your records.

Important Things You Need to Know

What is a Notary and where can I find one?

A Notary Public (usually just called “a notary”) is a person who has a license to witness people signing legal papers and to confirm that the signatures are authentic (which means the signatures are real and were done on purpose). **A notary will probably require you to show your driver's license or some kind of photo ID to prove that you are really you.**

Some notaries charge for their services, but it is usually easy to find a notary who will witness your signature and sign your paper for free. If you have an account at a local bank, you can probably get free notary services at that bank. Most libraries also offer free notary services.

Who can help me with these forms?

It is important for you to know that Court Clerks are not allowed to help you fill out these forms.

Here are some free resources that can help people with limited income and limited assets:

- Legal Aid of Wyoming Hotline. This Hotline gives you an opportunity to talk with a lawyer. 1-877-432-9955.
- Wyoming Free Legal Answers. This website gives you a chance to privately ask questions about your situation and then receive answers from a lawyer.
<https://wyoming.freelegalanswers.org/>

- Volunteer Reference Attorney Program. This program lets you have a short informational meeting with a lawyer. You can learn about the locations and dates by checking the calendar on the Wyoming Judicial Branch website at <https://www.wyocourts.gov/find-legal-services/>

If you do not qualify for the free services above, you can contact the Wyoming State Bar at 307-432-2107 for referral to Wyoming lawyers. (Those lawyers charge for their services.)

Where can I read the Wyoming laws about name change cases?

These laws are found in Wyoming Statutes Title 1, Chapter 25.

You can read them online by visiting the Wyoming Legislative Service Office website (<https://wyoleg.gov/>) or you can look at statute books at your local library.