

- (1) Every person has the right to adopt any name by which he or she wishes to be known simply by using that name consistently and without intent to defraud.
- (2) A person's last name (surname) does not automatically change upon marriage, and neither party to the marriage must change his or her last name. Parties to a marriage need not have the same last name.
- (3) One or both parties to a marriage may elect to change the surname by which he or she wishes to be known after the solemnization of the marriage by entering the new name in the appropriate space provided in the Affidavit Section of this application. Such entry shall consist of one of the following surnames:
  - (i) the surname of the other spouse; or
  - (ii) any former surname of either spouse; or
  - (iii) a name combining into a single surname all or a segment of the premarriage surname or any former surname of each spouse; or
  - (iv) a combination name separated by a hyphen or space, provided that each part of such combination surname is the premarriage surname, or any former surname, of each of the spouses.
- (4) One or both parties to a marriage may elect to change the middle name by which he or she wishes to be known after the solemnization of the marriage by entering the new name in the appropriate space provided in the Affidavit Section of this application. Such entry shall consist of one of the following options:
  - (i) the current surname of the spouse electing to change his or her name; or
  - (ii) any former surname of the spouse electing to change his or her name; or
  - (iii) the surname of the other spouse.
- (5) The use of this option will have the effect of providing a record of the change of name. The marriage certificate, containing the new name, if any, constitutes proof that the use of the new name, or the retention of the former name, is lawful.
- (6) Neither the use of, nor the failure to use, this option of selecting a new surname or middle name by means of this application abrogates the right of each person to adopt a different name through usage at some future date.