

Judicial Council of California

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Criminal and Appellate Procedure: Report of the 2025 Proposition 66 Counsel Working Group

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2025 Proposition 66 Counsel Working Group
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Executive Summary

This information report provides a summary of the activities of the 2025 Proposition 66 Counsel Working Group, which was established by the Chief Justice last year to examine the current status of the appointment of counsel for petitioners in capital habeas corpus proceedings in both the superior courts and the Courts of Appeal. To provide context, the report begins with background on Proposition 66 (the Death Penalty Reform and Savings Act of 2016) and the rules of court related to qualifications and appointment of capital habeas corpus counsel that have been adopted by the Judicial Council. The report then summarizes information the working group received from speakers with experience in capital habeas corpus proceedings and provides suggestions that judicial branch entities may consider in their efforts to recruit and appoint counsel for petitioners in such proceedings.

Relevant Previous Reporting or Action

The 2025 Proposition 66 Counsel Working Group has not reported to the Judicial Council prior to this date.

Background

Proposition 66 shifted, from the Supreme Court to the superior courts, responsibility for the adjudication of capital habeas corpus petitions and the appointment of counsel in those proceedings

On November 8, 2016, the California electorate approved Proposition 66, the Death Penalty Reform and Savings Act of 2016. The proposition made a variety of changes to the statutes relating to review of death sentence cases in the California courts, many of which were intended to reduce the time spent on review. Among other provisions, Proposition 66 effected several changes to the procedures for filing, hearing, adjudication, and appeal of capital habeas corpus petitions.

Until the enactment of Proposition 66, capital habeas corpus petitions were almost always filed in and decided by the Supreme Court. Proposition 66 now requires that initial capital habeas corpus petitions generally be heard first in the superior court. (Pen. Code, § 1509(a) [“A writ of habeas corpus pursuant to this section is the exclusive procedure for collateral attack on a judgment of death”].) Proposition 66 also created a new right for either party to appeal the resulting decision to the Court of Appeal. (Pen. Code, § 1509.1.)

Particularly relevant here, Proposition 66 imposed a new responsibility on superior courts, requiring them to offer to appoint and then—subject to the necessary findings—appoint counsel for indigent persons in capital habeas corpus proceedings. (Pen. Code, § 1509(b); Gov. Code, § 68662.) However, the act provides no direction on how to fund this mandate to provide petitioners with counsel. Under the current statutory framework, the superior courts are precluded by statute from spending their funds on counsel for indigent defendants at the trial court level.¹ It is the counties that are responsible for funding such representation.

Appointment of counsel before Proposition 66

Before the act took effect, the Supreme Court generally was responsible for the appointment of counsel both on direct appeal and in state habeas corpus proceedings challenging the judgment or sentence in capital cases. The Supreme Court drew attorneys from several sources when appointing counsel to initiate and pursue habeas corpus proceedings for indigent persons subject to a judgment of death. The two primary sources were:

- The Habeas Corpus Resource Center (HCRC), which was established by legislation² in 1997. HCRC is authorized by statute to employ up to 34 attorneys to represent indigent

¹ Gov. Code, § 27706 (governing the responsibilities of a public defender). In the absence of a public defender, Penal Code section 987.2 requires the superior court to appoint private counsel for indigent defendants who request representation in certain criminal proceedings (including capital trials) and requires the expense to be paid out of the county general fund, subject to several conditions. (Gov. Code, §§ 77003(a)(7), 77009.) As discussed below, this responsibility for paying for counsel for indigent defendants likely applies to indigent petitioners in both non-capital and capital habeas corpus proceedings.

² Sen. Bill 513 (Lockyer; Stats. 1997, ch. 869, § 3).

persons in capital habeas corpus proceedings and perform other duties. (Gov. Code, § 68661.)

- Private attorneys who sought an appointment to represent an indigent person in a capital habeas corpus proceeding before the Supreme Court by applying directly to the court. Applications were reviewed by Supreme Court staff, who made recommendations to the court regarding appointment.

In addition to these two sources, the Office of the State Public Defender had been appointed for some habeas corpus proceedings and still continues to represent petitioners on older petitions pending before the Supreme Court.³ The California Appellate Project–San Francisco (CAP-SF) appears specially for petitioners before counsel has been appointed to investigate, prepare, and file an initial petition and subsequent briefs.

The Proposition 66 model for expanding the pool of counsel

The proponents of Proposition 66 intended that its passage would reduce the delay in adjudicating capital habeas corpus petitions, in part by expanding “the pool of available lawyers.”⁴ The initiative’s proponents contemplated that superior courts, and not the Supreme Court, should make the appointments because they would be in a better position to recruit attorneys from within their respective local communities.⁵ For a myriad of reasons, as discussed in greater detail below, there has been little progress in expanding the pool of available and qualified attorneys.

Proposition 66 also created a new right to appeal superior court capital habeas corpus decisions to the Courts of Appeal, necessitating additional appointments of counsel for petitioners

In addition to shifting responsibility for deciding capital habeas corpus petitions from the Supreme Court to the superior courts, Proposition 66 created a new right to appeal a superior court’s denial of a capital habeas corpus petition to the Court of Appeal. (Pen. Code, § 1509.1.) The act, however, is silent on the responsibility for appointing counsel to represent the petitioners in these appeals and on who should bear the responsibility for funding counsel.

³ The Office of the State Public Defender, which is also established by statute (Gov. Code, §§ 15400–15425), is primarily appointed to represent defendants on direct appeal from a judgment of death, but it continues to represent clients in a small number of habeas corpus proceedings in which there had been a dual appointment (i.e., to represent the same client on the automatic appeal and the habeas corpus petition).

⁴ *Voter Information Guide*, Gen. Elec. (Nov. 8, 2016), argument in favor of Proposition 66, p. 108.

⁵ Judicial Council of Cal., Working Group Rep., *Criminal and Appellate Procedure: Superior Court Appointment of Counsel in Death Penalty–Related Habeas Corpus Proceedings* (Oct. 19, 2018 [report incorrectly dated Oct. 19, 2019]), pp. 7–8, [jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=6786824&GUID=CA85EBD4-E947-4E81-A1B5-21B857789B56](https://www.jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=6786824&GUID=CA85EBD4-E947-4E81-A1B5-21B857789B56). Some believed expansion of the pool would also result from Proposition 66 reducing the amount of time attorneys have to work on an initial habeas corpus petition from three years to one year, thereby allowing attorneys to take on more petitions with less of a time commitment than they had to make in the past. (*Ibid.*)

The complexity of these appeals demands representation by experienced attorneys. These appeals are broader in scope than typical appeals because they often present unique penalty-related issues and require consideration of issues both raised and not raised in the underlying capital habeas corpus proceeding. Many of these appeals therefore involve review of an enormous record on appeal, generally incorporating the records for the underlying trial, the capital habeas corpus petition, and the related automatic appeal in the Supreme Court.⁶

Counsel for these appeals therefore must have the skill to competently investigate not only routine appellate issues, but also those that can be raised for the first time in a habeas corpus appeal. These issues include claims of ineffective assistance of trial court counsel *and* of appellate counsel in a petitioner's prior direct appeal from the judgment of death. Moreover, claims of ineffective assistance of counsel in the appealed habeas corpus proceeding may be cognizable under certain circumstances. In part for this reason, the same attorney cannot represent a habeas petitioner at both the trial and appellate levels, unless both petitioner and counsel expressly request such representation in writing. (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 8.391(a)(3).)⁷

The Proposition 66 Rules Working Group

The act called for the Judicial Council to adopt, within 18 months of the act's effective date, "initial rules and standards of administration designed to expedite the processing of capital appeals and state habeas corpus review." (Pen. Code, § 190.6(d).) Government Code section 68665(b), which was added by Proposition 66, also requires the Supreme Court and the Judicial Council, in adopting rules of court related to the qualifications of counsel, to consider, among other factors, "the need to avoid unduly restricting the available pool of attorneys so as to provide timely appointment, and the standards needed to qualify for Chapter 154 of Title 28 of the United States Code."

Shortly after the act took effect, the Judicial Council formed the Proposition 66 Rules Working Group (Rules Working Group) to assist the council in carrying out its rule-making responsibilities under the act.⁸ The council charged the Rules Working Group with considering what new or amended court rules, judicial administration standards, and Judicial Council forms would be needed to address the act's provisions, including, among other things, those governing the procedures for superior court appointment of counsel for capital habeas corpus proceedings.

⁶ Under California Rules of Court, rule 8.395(a), the documents filed or submitted in the trial court in capital habeas corpus proceedings *and* in the automatic appeal would be part of the clerk's transcript for the record in these appeals. The parties may stipulate, however, to a limited record under rule 8.395(b).

⁷ All further references to rules are to the California Rules of Court.

⁸ The act did not take effect immediately upon approval by the electorate because its constitutionality was challenged in a petition filed in the California Supreme Court, *Briggs v. Brown* (S238309). On October 25, 2017, the Supreme Court's opinion in *Briggs v. Brown* became final ((2017) 3 Cal.5th 808), and the act took effect.

The Rules Working Group recommended five different proposals, which the Judicial Council adopted effective April 2019.⁹ The rules relevant to the subjects examined by this working group are discussed in the sections below.

Rules 4.561 and 4.562 provide a process for recruiting, qualifying, and appointing counsel for capital habeas corpus petitioners in the superior courts

As recommended by the Rules Working Group, the Judicial Council adopted rules 4.561 and 4.562 to address a superior court's appointment of counsel for capital habeas corpus petitioners.

Rule 4.561 establishes the procedures by which superior courts appoint qualified counsel to represent indigent persons in capital habeas corpus proceedings.

Rule 4.562 establishes procedures for the recruitment of counsel and determination of whether counsel have met the minimum qualifications for appointment in capital habeas corpus proceedings. Subdivision (f) requires each superior court in which a judgment of death has been entered against an indigent person for whom habeas corpus counsel has not been appointed to develop and implement a plan to identify and recruit qualified counsel who may apply to be available for appointment. The Rules Working Group recognized, however, that the superior courts would require assistance and support in carrying out this obligation.¹⁰ Accordingly, subdivision (b) of the rule requires each Court of Appeal to establish a regional committee that will, among other duties:

- Assist superior courts in their efforts to recruit qualified attorneys;
- Accept applications from interested attorneys;
- Determine if applicants meet the minimum qualifications, as provided in rule 8.652; and
- Upon the request of a superior court, assist the court in matching one or more qualified attorneys from the statewide panel to a specific case.¹¹

Subdivision (d)(4) provides that those attorneys the committees determine are qualified will be added to a statewide panel of counsel maintained by HCRC and posted on its website.¹² As an alternative to the statewide panel of private attorneys, individual courts, by adopting a local rule, may establish a local process for accepting attorney applications and determining whether the attorneys meet the requirements of rule 8.652.¹³

⁹ The text of all changes proposed by the Rules Working Group and adopted by the Judicial Council can be found at courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/prop66-rules-strikeout-version_0.pdf.

¹⁰ Judicial Council of Cal., Working Group Rep., *Criminal and Appellate Procedure: Superior Court Appointment of Counsel in Death Penalty-Related Habeas Corpus Proceedings*, *supra*, at p. 13.

¹¹ Rule 4.561(d).

¹² Habeas Corpus Resource Center, "4.562 Compliance," hcrc.ca.gov/4.562.html.

¹³ Rule 4.562(g).

Rules 8.652 and 8.391 provide the qualifications for counsel representing a petitioner in the trial court and on appeal for a capital habeas corpus petition

As recommended by the Rules Working Group, rule 8.652 establishes the qualifications for counsel to be appointed to represent a petitioner on an initial petition in a capital habeas corpus proceeding in a superior court.

Rule 8.391, in turn, establishes the qualifications of counsel appointed by the Court of Appeal to represent an indigent person not represented by the State Public Defender in an appeal under Penal Code section 1509.1. Rule 8.391 requires that, to be eligible for appointment to these appeals, an attorney must meet the minimum qualifications set forth in rule 8.652—in other words, the same qualifications standards as counsel seeking appointment in the underlying superior court capital habeas corpus proceeding. In addition, however, counsel must be familiar with appellate practices and procedures in the California courts, including those related to death penalty appeals.¹⁴ Finally, as discussed earlier, due to the possibility of a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel, an appointed attorney “must not have represented the petitioner in the habeas corpus proceedings that are the subject of the appeal unless the petitioner and counsel expressly request, in writing, continued representation.”

The 2025 Proposition 66 Counsel Working Group

Following enactment of Proposition 66, many individuals are still waiting for appointment of counsel for capital habeas corpus proceedings

Very few new appointments of counsel for an initial capital habeas corpus petition have been made since the act was passed in 2016. There is only one qualified attorney on the statewide panel established under rule 4.562.¹⁵ No private counsel has been successfully appointed by a superior court since the act went into effect. Between the passage of Proposition 66 and April 2019, when the Supreme Court was still making appointments, HCRC accepted four appointments to replace previously appointed private counsel. Since April 2019, when the rules became effective, HCRC has accepted appointments to represent four petitioners, in one of those cases replacing previously appointed counsel. HCRC has reported it is working toward an appointment in one more case.

When the Rules Working Group reported to the Judicial Council in 2018, there were almost 750 individuals on death row in California. Approximately 360 of these individuals were waiting for attorneys to be appointed to represent them in habeas corpus proceedings.¹⁶ HCRC reports that

¹⁴ Rule 8.391(b).

¹⁵ Since qualifying for the panel in 2019, three of the four attorneys have withdrawn, leaving only one qualified attorney as of November 2025. Rule 4.652 requires HCRC to make available on its website a list of the qualified attorneys on the panel. The most current list can be found at hcr.ca.gov/4.562/habeas_panel.pdf. See also Habeas Corpus Resource Center, *Annual Report: 2024 in Review* (Feb. 14, 2025), p. 11, hcr.ca.gov/documents/HCRC%20Annual%20Report%202024a.pdf.

¹⁶ Judicial Council of Cal., Working Group Rep., *Criminal and Appellate Procedure: Superior Court Appointment of Counsel in Death Penalty–Related Habeas Corpus Proceedings*, *supra*, at p. 7.

the number of those on death row awaiting appointment of habeas corpus counsel to investigate, prepare, and file an initial petition is now down to 344.¹⁷

HCRC also reports that there are now 42 petitioners who are waiting for the appointment of counsel to investigate, prepare, and file an opening brief in the Court of Appeal, under the new appellate procedures established by Penal Code section 1509.1.¹⁸ To date, and despite the Judicial Council's submission of requests for funding to be included in the Budget Act, no funding has been provided to pay counsel for representing these appellate petitioners. The Courts of Appeal have stayed these appeals until funding is provided.¹⁹

There are a number of reasons for the lack of appointments by the superior courts, chief among them is the magnitude of the work involved and the lack of funding to compensate attorneys. An additional key factor is the "serious shortage of qualified counsel willing to accept an appointment as habeas corpus counsel in a death penalty case."²⁰ In a 2019 concurring opinion, four Supreme Court justices concluded the "the dearth of attorneys willing to take on these assignments is due in part to the sheer enormity of the undertaking. A single death penalty case can and often does dominate a lawyer's practice for well more than a decade."²¹ The opinion went on to explain that the protracted nature of the postconviction death penalty process, limitations on funding for petitioners' counsel, the size of the record, and the scale of the parties' briefing "in light of the peculiar nature of the death penalty" all contribute to the unusual burden.²²

The Chief Justice establishes the 2025 Proposition 66 Counsel Working Group

In February 2025, Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero established the 2025 Proposition 66 Counsel Working Group and charged it with the following tasks:

- Review the current processes and efforts at appointing counsel for indigent persons seeking to file a petition for habeas corpus review of the death penalty judgments imposed on them or appeals of a superior court decision on such a petition. The matters under review will include but not be limited to the time frame for appointments and the qualifications necessary to achieve competent representation, the need to avoid unduly restricting the available pool of attorneys so as to provide timely appointment, and the standards needed to qualify for chapter 154 of title 28 of the United States Code (Pen. Code, §§ 1239.1, 1509; Gov. Code, § 68665).

¹⁷ Habeas Corpus Resource Center, *Annual Report: 2024 in Review*, *supra*, at p. 10, citing 345 individuals. The appointment of HCRC to represent a petitioner in Kings County in March 2026 brings the number to 344.

¹⁸ *Id.* at p. 11.

¹⁹ *Id.* at p. 12.

²⁰ *In re Morgan* (2010) 50 Cal.4th 932, 937–938.

²¹ *Briggs v. Brown* (2017) 3 Cal.5th 808, 864.

²² *Id.* at pp. 866–869 (conc. opn. of Liu, J.).

- Consider whether there are new or better methods to recruit and appoint counsel for indigent persons who seek to petition for habeas corpus review of the death penalty judgments imposed on them or appeals of a superior court decision on such a petition. The methods to be considered will include but not be limited to new or amended court rules, judicial administration standards, and Judicial Council forms that may be appropriate to better implement the act's provisions.
- Consider how the use of pro bono counsel could help expand the pool of attorneys available for appointment to represent indigent persons who seek to petition for habeas corpus review of the death penalty judgments imposed on them or appeal a superior court decision on such a petition.
- Based on its study of current practices and options for new or better methods for recruiting or appointing counsel, make recommendations to the Judicial Council including but not limited to new or amended court rules, judicial administration standards, and Judicial Council forms that may be appropriate to better implement the act's provisions.

The Chief Justice appointed Administrative Presiding Justice Laurie M. Earl, Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, as chair of the working group, and appointed the following as members:

- Administrative Presiding Justice Mary J. Greenwood, Court of Appeal, Sixth Appellate District
- Judge Charles S. Crompton, Superior Court of San Francisco County
- Presiding Judge Lisa M. Rogan, Superior Court of San Bernardino County
- Ms. Rachel W. Hill, Attorney at Law, Law Office of Rachel Hill & Hill Mediation Services
- Ms. Gretchen Nelson, Attorney at Law, Nelson & Fraenkel LLP
- Mr. Craig M. Peters, Attorney at Law, Altair Law
- Ms. Anabel Z. Romero, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of San Bernardino County

Mr. Jonathan Lange, Assistant Chief Supervising Attorney, Supreme Court of California, served as Supreme Court liaison to the working group.

Judicial Council staff to the working group included Ms. Laura Speed, former Director, Leadership Support Services; Mr. Michael Giden, Principal Managing Attorney, Legal Services; Mr. Alex Bender, Attorney II, Criminal Justice Services; and Ms. Alexandria Torres, Analyst, Leadership Support Services.

The working group conducted six meetings and heard from eight speakers

The working group met six times between February and December of 2025, twice in person and four times by video. Three of these meetings were dedicated in part to hearing from eight guest speakers with a broad range of expertise in capital habeas corpus proceedings in California. The

following speakers are listed in the order they spoke with the working group, with the date indicated in parentheses.

- Mr. David Lash, Managing Counsel for Pro Bono and Public Interest Services, O'Melveny & Myers LLP (June 24, 2025)
- Ms. Nisha Shah, Interim Executive Director, Habeas Corpus Resource Center (July 31, 2025)
- Mr. Joseph Schlesinger, Executive Director, California Appellate Project—San Francisco (July 31, 2025)
- Mr. Bill Bilderback, Senior Assistant Attorney General and Statewide Capital Case Coordinator, California Department of Justice (July 31, 2025)
- Ms. Elisabeth A. Semel, Clinic Co-Director and Clinical Professor of Law, Berkeley Law Death Penalty Clinic (Aug. 26, 2025)
- Ms. Aimee Vierra, Supervisor of Writs and Post-Conviction Unit, Law Offices of the Public Defender, Riverside County (Aug. 26, 2025)
- Ms. Pamela Gomez, Chief of Capital Habeas Unit, Office of the Federal Public Defender, Central District of California (Aug. 26, 2025)
- Mr. Thomas Sone, Public Defender, Law Offices of the Public Defender, San Bernardino County (Aug. 26, 2025)

The working group and its staff are grateful to each of these individuals for taking the time and effort to share their experiences and expertise.

Summary of topics discussed by the speakers

The speakers discussed many topics with the members of the working group. The statements most relevant to the working group's charge are summarized below. These statements are presented for informational purposes only and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the working group or its members. The working group's conclusions are presented in the next section.

Benefits of timely appointment of capital habeas corpus counsel

It has been over 20 years since California last executed a condemned inmate.²³ Yet the reduced threat of execution in California does not mean that people sentenced to death do not benefit from prompt appointment of habeas corpus counsel. Speakers pointed out that as time passes, witnesses die, memories fade, physical evidence degrades and disappears, all making it much harder to challenge a criminal judgment of any kind.

Some of the speakers provided recent examples of successful habeas corpus petitions that resulted in petitioners being released or sentenced to a prison term that would allow for release in

²³ The most recent execution in California occurred on January 17, 2006. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation maintains a list of individuals executed by California since 1978 at cdcr.ca.gov/capital-punishment/inmates-executed-1978-to-present/.

the future. While infrequent, these examples illustrate that appointment of counsel is not merely an abstract legal requirement. It can have life-changing impacts for the represented inmates.

The speakers also noted that delay in appointment of counsel impacts individuals beyond those sentenced to death. As the proponents of Proposition 66 argued, delays in the final resolution of a capital case impact the families of murder victims, who “should not have to wait decades for justice. These delays further victimize families who are waiting for justice.”²⁴ This concern is also reflected in the provision in the California Constitution giving victims a right to “a speedy trial and a prompt and final conclusion of the case and any related post-judgment proceedings.”²⁵

Challenges to recruiting qualified counsel

There appeared to be a consensus among the speakers that absent funding for petitioners’ counsel, it will continue to be difficult to recruit qualified attorneys to apply for the panel of private attorneys available for appointment in capital habeas corpus cases. Although these speakers emphasized the lack of funding and lack of clarity about which entity is responsible for making funding available, they also noted that these were not the only issues impeding recruitment. Representing a condemned inmate on a habeas case is an extraordinary commitment on a number of different levels. The time to investigate and prepare for the filing of a habeas corpus petition and the subsequent litigation takes years. There are also considerable out-of-pocket expenses for investigation, preparation, and litigation, for which counsel would need to seek reimbursement. There is also an emotional toll on attorneys who work on these cases. Grappling with both the graphic nature of the crimes and the humanity of the person sitting across from them can have a profound and lasting impact on people who work on these cases.

Challenges to pro bono counsel accepting appointments

Speakers told the working group that law firms and clinics that provide pro bono services in capital habeas corpus cases work with limited resources. They find it necessary to prioritize work and dedicate their institution’s efforts where the need is greatest. These attorneys have concluded that the need for capital habeas corpus representation may not be as great in California as it is in other states, where there is no moratorium on execution. Further, there are very few firms in California that provide capital habeas corpus pro bono services and the firms have limited resources that restrict the number of capital cases that they are able to accept each year.

Models for providing counsel: institutions or private counsel

The speakers noted that it can be difficult for individual counsel to work in isolation, despite the assistance they receive from organizations like the California Appellate Project–San Francisco. The speakers opined that government institutions were in a better position to provide consistent, high-quality representation. Such institutions have existing infrastructure to support such

²⁴ *Voter Information Guide*, Gen. Elec. (Nov. 8, 2016), text of proposed law, Proposition 66, section 2, *Findings and Declarations*, item 3, p. 213.

²⁵ Cal. Const., art. I, § 28(b)(9), cited in an amendment to Pen. Code, § 190.6(d) made by Proposition 66.

representation, including predictable financial resources and internal training and mentoring that remain in place over the long term.

Attorney training and career path

Some of the speakers expressed concern about the dearth of new attorneys gaining experience with capital habeas corpus representation. There have been very few appointments since 2016. Many attorneys with the relevant experience have stopped taking on new appointments as they retire or near retirement. This means there are not always senior level attorneys available to train newer attorneys. Thus, even if there were funding, these speakers believe there may be fewer attorneys capable of meeting the necessary qualifications or available to train those who are interested in taking on these appointments.

Possibility of settlement, mediation, and other avenues for resolution

Some of the speakers mentioned that settlement, mediation, and other avenues for resolution should be considered as an alternative or in addition to the preparation of a traditional habeas corpus petition. They suggested that a rule or rule amendment requiring a settlement conference could be productive in bringing down the number of petitions that require full briefing, argument, and adjudication. Another speaker raised concerns about such an approach, stating that it would still require appointment of counsel and substantial investigation and analysis.

Written materials provided to the working group

The working group members also received written materials from some of the speakers. Among these materials are a letter from the Berkeley Law Death Penalty Clinic dated June 13, 2025 (Attachment A); *Death Penalty Report* from the Committee on Revision of the Penal Code, dated November 2021;²⁶ and *Annual Report: 2024 in Review* from HCRC.²⁷

Analysis/Rationale

The working group reviewed the current process and efforts at appointing counsel for indigent persons seeking to file a petition for writ of habeas corpus challenging a death judgment or appealing a superior court decision on such a petition. This review included the time frame for appointments and the qualifications necessary to achieve competent representation, taking into account Proposition 66's mandate to avoid unduly restricting the available pool of attorneys and to provide timely appointment, consistent with the standards needed to qualify for chapter 154 of title 28 of the United States Code (Pen. Code, §§ 1239.1, 1509; Gov. Code, § 68665).

The working group also considered whether there are new or better methods, consistent with the requirements of Proposition 66, to recruit and appoint counsel for indigent persons who seek to pursue a petition for writ of habeas corpus challenging a death judgment or an appeal from a

²⁶ Committee on Revision of the Penal Code, *Death Penalty Report* (November 2021), clrc.ca.gov/CRPC/Pub/Reports/CRPC_DPR.pdf.

²⁷ Habeas Corpus Resource Center, *Annual Report: 2024 Update* (Feb. 14, 2024), hcrc.ca.gov/documents/HCRC%20Annual%20Report%202024a.pdf.

superior court decision on such a petition. The methods considered included the recruitment of pro bono counsel as well as new or amended court rules, judicial administration standards, and Judicial Council forms that may be appropriate to better implement the act's provisions.

In addition to hearing from the eight speakers on how the California system is structured, the members of the working group considered how capital habeas corpus attorneys are provided in other state courts. California appears to be unique in requiring the appointment of counsel—but without a comprehensive system of counsel (either public or private) that is funded and available to handle the demand for appointments. In that sense, none of the other jurisdictions provided a model of how California can address the shortage of qualified counsel without first establishing how counsel will be funded.

New or amended rules of court, standards of judicial administration, or forms related to the qualifications or appointment of counsel are not necessary

The working group reviewed the current rules of court on qualifications of counsel and the process for appointing counsel.²⁸ None of the speakers indicated that any of the rules impede the recruitment of private counsel, and the working group agrees that the rules are not an impediment. Instead, the dearth of private counsel appointments since the passage of Proposition 66 appears to be caused by the lack of funding for counsel in both the superior courts and the Courts of Appeal and the personal and professional challenges associated with taking on these appointments.

However, the working group did not foreclose the possibility that the rules of court related to either qualifications of counsel or the process for appointing counsel might be amended in the future. Once funding is made available, and there has been greater experience with the appointment and qualifications requirements found in the rules, it may be worth evaluating that experience to determine if any new or amended rules, standards, or forms are appropriate in these areas to increase the pool of qualified attorneys willing to accept appointments.

Pro bono representation is unlikely to resolve the substantial backlog of unrepresented individuals

As the charge required, the working group considered the viability of using pro bono attorneys. The use of pro bono attorneys, either from law firms, innocence projects, or law school clinics, may help some individual petitioners but it would have little impact on the substantial backlog of nearly 400 unrepresented individuals—344 requiring counsel for the initial petitions in the superior courts and 42 more requiring counsel for the appeals of decisions on the initial petitions. As noted above, the speakers explained that investigation and preparation of a capital habeas corpus petition can require an enormous amount of time and effort, sometimes requiring over a decade to complete. The cases may also involve a substantial amount of out-of-pocket financial resources for investigation, for which counsel would need to seek reimbursement. Given these challenges, only a limited number of large law firms or well-funded law school clinics would be

²⁸ Rules 4.561, 4.562, 8.391, and 8.652.

able to take on an appointment, and even then, the number of appointments would be limited to one or two per institution. Finally, many of the law firms and clinics with experience in this area have decided to direct their efforts where they believe they are most needed, and the current moratorium on executions, among other reasons, has made them more likely to take cases outside California.

Although pro bono representation would not resolve the backlog of hundreds of unrepresented individuals on their own, the working group believes this option should not be overlooked and may be worth further efforts. Even a modest number of additional appointments makes a difference to the represented inmates, and these appointments can provide important training opportunities to interested attorneys and law students.

Regional committees should reactivate and the Judicial Council should consider providing additional support as requested by the committees

Rule 4.562 requires the Court of Appeal for each of California's six appellate districts to establish a death penalty-related habeas corpus panel committee (regional committee). Among other duties, these committees are required to assist superior courts in their efforts to recruit attorneys to represent indigent petitioners in capital habeas corpus proceedings. Although each of the six districts established such a committee in 2019, the committees became less active after the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The working group believes the regional committees are best poised to promote and coordinate the recruitment of new attorneys. Committees may be able to draw on their familiarity with their local legal communities to encourage qualified pro bono attorneys to take on representation, to work with local law schools to set up clinical programs related to the capital habeas corpus proceedings, or to generate innovative recruitment ideas.

However, the committees need assistance in their recruitment efforts. The working group believes it may be helpful if Judicial Council staff worked with the regional committees to provide new education or training for their members to familiarize them with the rules of court applicable to the recruitment and appointment of counsel in capital habeas corpus proceedings that the council adopted in 2019.

Recognizing that addressing the backlog of inmates needing habeas corpus representation will require a substantial pool of willing and qualified attorneys, there is a need to not only identify attorneys willing to accept future appointments, but to ensure they are qualified. Because very few attorneys have been appointed since 2016, there have likewise been few opportunities for new attorneys to gain experience with capital habeas corpus representation. The working group believes it may be helpful if the regional committees, with the support of Judicial Council staff, as requested, worked to encourage and facilitate the provision of education and training opportunities to attorneys willing to accept future appointments.

Importance of the judicial branch continuing to seek funding for counsel to represent petitioners in appeals from superior court decisions on capital habeas corpus petitions

After Proposition 66 became effective, and at the recommendation of the Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee (APJAC), the Judicial Council began submitting budget change proposals to the Department of Finance. Every year since fiscal year 2021–22, the APJAC has recommended budget change concepts that sought ongoing funding to support the new workload and costs associated with implementation of Proposition 66 in the Courts of Appeal, including additional court staff, appointed counsel, investigations, records storage, and technology upgrades.²⁹ The Department of Finance has not approved any of these requests.

Recognizing that the judicial branch has an interest in the timely appointment of qualified attorneys to represent petitioners in capital habeas corpus proceedings, the working group believes it is important for the APJAC, the Judicial Branch Budget Committee, and the Judicial Council to continue developing, approving, and submitting these budget change proposals to the Department of Finance. Should these requests for funding be approved and included in the state's annual Budget Act, the Courts of Appeal would then be able to begin appointing counsel for all petitioners who have pending and future Proposition 66 appeals.

Additionally, consistent with efforts to recruit qualified attorneys willing to accept future appellate appointments, the Judicial Council may want to consider whether future budget change proposals should include funding for the Courts of Appeal, regional committees, or other entities to provide education and training to attorneys willing to accept such appointments.

Counties should be encouraged to seek funding for appointed counsel to represent petitioners in the superior courts

In contrast to its suggestion that the Judicial Council continue to submit budget change proposals for appellate counsel for petitioners whose decisions are submitted to the Courts of Appeal, the working group does not recommend that the council seek funding for appointed counsel for petitioners in the superior courts. Under the statutory framework governing trial court funding,³⁰ trial courts are prevented from spending their own funds on indigent defense counsel.

Specifically, Government Code section 77003, which defines “court operations” for purposes of authorized court expenditures, specifically excludes “indigent criminal defense” from those expenses that a trial court is authorized to pay.³¹ This interpretation is reinforced in Government

²⁹ Judicial Branch Budget Committee, *Notice and Agenda of Open Meeting with Closed Session* (Apr. 21, 2020), pp. 27–35, courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/jbbc-20200421-materials.pdf.

³⁰ See the Lockyer-Isenberg Trial Court Funding Act of 1997 (Assem. Bill 233; Stats. 1997, ch. 850) and subsequent amendments. The act shifted responsibility for funding trial courts from the counties to the state and established what costs would be the responsibilities of the counties and what costs would be the responsibilities of trial courts.

³¹ Gov. Code, § 77003(a)(7). Government Code section 77009 requires trial courts to deposit all funds for their operations into an account and states that those funds “shall be payable only for the purposes set forth in [Government Code] Sections 77003 and 77006.5, and for services purchased by the court pursuant to subdivisions (b) and (c) of [Government Code] Section 77212.” Government Code sections 77006.5 and 77212 do not contradict the restriction on using court funds for indigent defense.

Code section 77201, which states that nothing in the section “is intended to relieve a county of the responsibility for justice-related expenses not included in Section 77003 which are otherwise required of the county by law, including, but not limited to, *indigent defense representation and investigation*”³²

Although Proposition 66 clearly vests the superior courts with responsibility for appointing counsel in the capital habeas corpus proceedings before them, the proposition is silent on what government entity is responsible for paying for counsel. There is an argument that relevant statutory authorities indicate that funding counsel in habeas corpus proceedings in the superior courts would be a county expense, reimbursable by the state. The first authority is Penal Code section 987.2(a), which requires that attorneys appointed to represent indigent persons “in a criminal trial, proceeding, or appeal” must “be paid out of the general fund of the county.” The second authority is Penal Code section 4751(d), which states that a county may recover “[c]osts incurred by the public defender or court-appointed attorney with respect to any matter set forth in Section 4750.” Penal Code section 4750, in turn, provides that “[a] city, county, or superior court shall be entitled to reimbursement for reasonable and necessary costs connected with state prisons or prisoners in connection with any of the following: [¶] ... [¶] (c) Any hearing on any return of a writ of habeas corpus prosecuted by or on behalf of a prisoner.” There is nothing in Penal Code section 4750 that excludes capital habeas corpus petitions from the matters for which a county may be reimbursed.

Although courts have expressed differing opinions regarding whether a county public defender, specifically, may be required to accept appointment in a habeas corpus proceeding,³³ no court has directly addressed the underlying funding responsibility. But to the extent prior authorities involving the public defender are relevant, they make clear that, at a minimum, a public defender has the discretion to represent an indigent petitioner in a non-capital habeas corpus proceeding—at the county’s expense. It may reasonably be inferred from that conclusion that the cost of any habeas corpus representation would be a cost for the county to cover—whether the petitioner is represented by the public defender or private counsel, when the public defender declines the assignment under Penal Code section 987.2. Since there is no distinction in the statute between responsibility for non-capital and capital habeas corpus proceedings, the same logic would apply to impose liability on counties for funding representation of indigent capital habeas corpus petitioners. The working group suggests that it may be helpful for the council to communicate this interpretation of the governing statutes to our sister branches of government to help achieve

³² Gov. Code, § 77201(g) (italics added); see Gov. Code, §§ 77201.1(d) (same), 77201.3(f) (same).

³³ In *Harmon v. Superior Court* (2026) 117 Cal.App.5th 1236, the Court of Appeal held that under Government Code section 27706(a) a public defender is not required to represent an indigent petitioner in a non-capital habeas corpus proceeding but has the discretion to do so under Government Code section 27706(g). In reaching this conclusion, the Court of Appeal expressed disagreement with *Charlton v. Superior Court* (1979) 93 Cal.App.3d 858, to the extent that *Charlton* could be read as requiring public defenders to take on representation of an indigent petitioner in a non-capital habeas corpus proceeding (*Harmon, supra*, at pp. 1251–1253) and noted that *Bemore v. Superior Court* (2025) 108 Cal.App.5th 1125 was not inconsistent with its holding because *Bemore* addressed whether a petitioner could choose their own private counsel despite a public defender’s request to be appointed (*Harmon, supra*, at pp. 1253–1254).

clarity on the question of responsibility for funding counsel. Otherwise, there is a risk of even greater confusion and greater likelihood that the question will not be resolved satisfactorily.

District attorneys and public defenders should be encouraged to engage in settlement discussions to resolve death sentences before an initial petition is filed

Some of the speakers stated that many sentences have been reduced following reexamination before an initial petition was filed, based on the discovery of new facts or the availability of new statutory remedies like the Racial Justice Act (Assem. Bill 2542; Stats. 2020, ch. 317). District attorneys and public defenders should be encouraged to engage in settlement discussions or mediations to examine those cases in which capital habeas corpus counsel have not yet been appointed to determine whether any of those cases would lend themselves to reduced sentences based on new facts or new legal rights. The Judicial Council may want to consider whether a settlement or mediation program would be beneficial. This may enable death-sentenced inmates to get more prompt relief, and it would reduce the backlog of cases requiring appointment of counsel.

Fiscal Impact and Policy Implications

California law mandates that courts appoint counsel for petitioners in capital habeas corpus proceedings and appeals. But many of the factors that would make qualified counsel available for appointment are outside the control of the courts and the judicial branch. Specifically, the courts have no control over funding for such counsel, and attorneys are unlikely to accept appointments unless they know they will be paid for their work and reimbursed for their out-of-pocket costs. In addition, the training of attorneys is outside the purview of the Judicial Council's educational efforts. In the absence of funding and adequate attorney training, however, judicial branch entities can explore any of the actions discussed in this report that are within their control and should continue efforts to recruit and appoint counsel in spite of these challenges.

Attachments and Links

1. Attachment A: June 13, 2025, letter from the Berkeley Law Death Penalty Clinic to the working group

Faculty

Elisabeth Semel, Co-Director
Ty Alper, Co-Director

Paralegal

Stephanie Shattuck

Deputy Director

Mridula Raman

June 13, 2025

Michael I. Giden
Managing Attorney, Legal Services
Judicial Council of California
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

Via Email to michael.giden@jud.ca.gov

Re: Law School Clinics Participation in Capital Habeas Representation

Dear Mr. Giden,

Thank you for your email. It came at a busy time for us. We apologize that it has taken us several days to reply.

While we appreciate the Judicial Council's concern, respectfully, we do not believe that it is possible for law school clinics to play any meaningful role in addressing the shortage of attorneys able and willing to represent clients facing execution in California by providing pro bono direct representation to people sentenced to death in the state. The enormous amount of time and financial resources required to competently represent a capital client in state habeas proceedings precludes law school clinics from engaging in this representation at any scale. We note that one of the Berkeley Law Death Penalty Clinic's core contributions to addressing the shortage of attorneys for death-sentenced individuals in California and nationwide has been by training the next generation of capital defense lawyers.

The current number of death-sentenced men and women in California without habeas counsel reflects a decades-old structural deficiency in the state's administration of the death penalty. When the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice ("Commission") issued its report in 2008, there were 291 prisoners on our state's death row who did not have habeas counsel. Cal. Comm'n on the Fair Admin. of Just., *Report and Recommendations on the Administration of the Death Penalty in California* 50 (June 30, 2008) ("CCFAJ Report"). The average wait for appointment of counsel was then eight to ten years. *Id.* at 50–51. The Commission recommended expansion of the Habeas Corpus Resource Center ("HCRC") by increasing its budget five-fold as the best and likely the only means of addressing the chronic shortage of qualified counsel. *Id.* at 55. Acknowledging that individual appointments would nonetheless be necessary, the Commission proposed revising the California Supreme Court's procedures to ensure that habeas counsel are qualified under Guideline 4.1(A)(2) of the ABA Guidelines for the Appointment and Performance of Defense Counsel in Death Penalty Cases

and “fully compensated at rates that are commensurate with the provision of high quality legal representation and reflect the extraordinary responsibilities in death penalty representation.” *Id.*

Almost fifteen years later, the Commission’s recommendations remain unfulfilled, and the crisis in representation has worsened: There are now 345 individuals without habeas counsel on California’s death row, and the average time from imposition of sentence to appointment is 16 years. Habeas Corpus Resource Center, *Annual Report: 2024 in Review* 10, 12 (Feb. 14, 2025) (“*HCRC Report*”). The number of HCRC attorneys is statutorily frozen at 34. *Id.* at 14. Last year, the agency’s budget was reduced by more than \$903,000, which forced the agency to impose a hiring freeze. *Id.*

In the recently filed petition for certiorari to the United States Supreme Court in *Guerrero v. Redd*, Chief Justice Guerrero acknowledged, “Few attorneys have the necessary qualifications [for appointment] to begin with, and budgetary constraints limit the California judiciary’s ability to attract even those attorneys who are qualified.” Pet. for Writ of Cert. at 6, *Guerrero v. Redd*, No. 24-948 (U.S. Feb. 28, 2025); see also *People v. Wilson*, 16 Cal. 5th 874, 969 (2024) (Liu & Evans, JJ., dissenting) (“It is well known, especially to this court, that there is a dearth of qualified counsel and funding for capital appointments.”). This has been the status quo since at least 2010, when the California Supreme Court recognized the “critical shortage of qualified attorneys” for capital state habeas proceedings. *In re Morgan*, 50 Cal. 4th 932, 934 (2010).

We are the only capital punishment clinic in California. We suspect that there are few, if any, faculty at other law school clinics in the state who qualify for appointment under Rule 8.652(c). We leave for another discussion, should it be appropriate, our reservations about appointment under subdivision (d) and concerns about whether appointment under either provision meets the requirements of ABA Guideline 4.1(A)(2). We note, however, that a key feature of clinical teaching involves modeling professional conduct, including “competence” under Rule 1.1 of the California Rules of Professional Conduct.

When the Death Penalty Clinic was founded in 2001, Professor Charles Weisselberg, who was at the time the Director of Clinical Legal Education, agreed that the clinic would accept an appointment by the California Supreme Court in a death penalty case. After Professor Semel joined the faculty as the clinic’s inaugural director, the court appointed her to represent a client, along with private counsel, who had previously been appointed. Several years later, after Professor Alper joined the Death Penalty Clinic, he was also appointed to the case. We are appointed in all capital post-conviction proceedings, including automatic appeal, habeas, and clemency in state court. We have represented the client for more than 20 years in state and federal habeas proceedings and related state court litigation.

Pursuant to its policies, the California Supreme Court capped reimbursement for state habeas investigation at \$50,000. Cal. Sup. Ct. Policies Regarding Cases Arising from Judgments of Death, Policy 3.3, std. 3.3.1, ¶ 4. (Feb. 1, 2025) (“Cal. Sup. Ct. Policies”). The Commission observed, “The expenses for a habeas investigation and the retaining of necessary experts can easily exceed this maximum.” *CCFAJ Report* at 53. The reimbursement allocation in the clinic’s

Michael I. Giden
June 13, 2025
Re: Law School Clinics
Page 3 of 3

case was *far* from sufficient.¹ As your email states, there is no funding for the appointment of counsel nor for ancillary costs in the superior courts under Proposition 66. Clinic faculty have devoted thousands of hours to representing our client. We cannot envision that a clinic would be able, much less willing, to contribute tens, potentially hundreds of thousands, of dollars to fund a capital habeas investigation, including expert witness declarations, which must be filed with the initial petition.

Your email also mentioned pro bono work by law firms. Before joining the Berkeley Law faculty, Professor Semel was director of the ABA's Death Penalty Representation Project for four years. One of her responsibilities was recruiting law firms to represent death-sentenced individuals. Should you be interested, she is available to discuss that experience. However, as you know, the California Supreme Court, with the assistance of the California Appellate Project and HCRC, spent decades encouraging law firms to take capital appellate and habeas cases. It is our understanding that the outcome was consistent with Professor Semel's experience: The recruitment numbers did not reduce the backlog. While there were some cases in which pro bono firms made the life-and-death difference for clients, there were mixed results in terms of the continuity and quality of the representation.

Even if a handful of law school clinics and law firms accept a handful of cases—assuming they are qualified to do so—they cannot remedy what HCRC correctly called “[t]he systemic dysfunction and potential for injustice that [the number of individuals awaiting habeas counsel] represents.” *HCRC Report* at 20.

If a phone call would be helpful, we would be happy to speak with you.

Sincerely,



Elisabeth Semel

esemel@clinical.law.berkeley.edu



Ty Alper

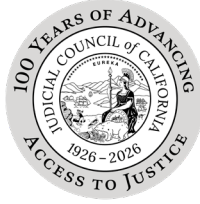
talper@clinical.law.berkeley.edu



Mridula Raman

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¹ The Commission's report cited Professor Semel's testimony, which stated that the law firm of Coley Goodward LLP "provided 8,000 hours of pro bono attorney time, 7,000 hours of paralegal time, and litigation expenses of \$328,000" in a single habeas case. *CCFAJ Report* at 53 n.71 (referring to *In re Lucas*, 33 Cal. 4th 682 (2004) and citing Testimony of Elisabeth Semel, February 28, 2008). Should you wish, we can provide a copy of Professor Semel's testimony. Those numbers are consistent with our experience, though we note that the litigation in *Lucas* ended more than twenty years ago. Costs have increased dramatically since then, while the court's hourly rates have not and its reimbursement cap remains the same. Cal. Sup. Ct. Policies, Policy 3.3, std. 3.3.1, ¶ 4.



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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 26-075

For business meeting on April 24, 2026

Title

Judicial Council: Appointment to the
California Access to Justice Commission

Report Type

Action Required

Effective Date

July 1, 2026

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected

None

Date of Report

April 14, 2026

Recommended by

Executive and Planning Committee
Hon. Brad R. Hill, Chair

Contact

Melanie Snider, 916-263-5442
melanie.snider@jud.ca.gov

Executive Summary

The Judicial Council Executive and Planning Committee recommends appointing Judge Andi Mudryk, Superior Court of Sacramento County, a judicial officer to the California Access to Justice Commission. This appointment fulfills the statutory requirement that the commission include three members appointed by the Judicial Council and supports efforts to ensure equal access to civil justice for individuals unable to meet their legal needs.

Recommendation

The Judicial Council Executive and Planning Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective July 1, 2026, appoint Judge Andi Mudryk, Superior Court of Sacramento County, to the California Access to Justice Commission as provided in Government Code section 68657(a)(4).

The recommended appointment term is:

- Judge Mudryk: July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2030.

Relevant Previous Council Action

In 2024, the Judicial Council appointed the following members with recommended appointment terms, (Link A):

- Justice Gail Ruderman Feuer: January 19, 2024–June 30, 2027
- Justice Jon B. Streeter: August 1, 2024–June 30, 2028¹
- Judge Erica Yew: January 19, 2024–June 30, 2026

Senate Bill 133 (Stats. 2023, ch. 34) codified commission membership requirements, including three Judicial Council appointees, and specified four-year terms with continuation until successors are appointed (Gov. Code, § 68658(a) & (b).)

Analysis/Rationale

The commission was established in 1996 to promote equal access to civil justice for all Californians, regardless of income, language capacity, or other barriers. In 2023, Senate Bill 133 codified the commission as a nonprofit public benefit corporation authorized to receive legislative funding (Gov. Code, §§ 68655–68659) (Link B).

The commission’s responsibilities include providing leadership to achieve full and equal access to justice, coordinating efforts to improve delivery of legal services, administering grant programs to support legal aid attorneys, and encouraging increased resources for access to justice.

Government Code section 68657(a)(4) requires that three members be appointed by the Judicial Council. This recommendation fulfills that statutory requirement and ensures continued representation on the commission.

Policy implications

None.

Comments

Public comment has not been solicited on this recommendation.

Alternatives considered

No alternatives were considered since Gov. Code, § 68657(a)(4) requires that three members of the commission be appointed by the Judicial Council.

Fiscal and Operational Impacts

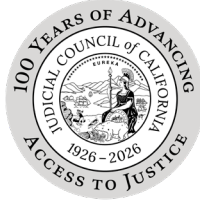
Commissioners serve as uncompensated volunteers. The fiscal and operational impacts of this appointment are negligible.

¹ In 2024, Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero reappointed Justice Streeter for a full term that expires June 30, 2028.

Attachments and Links

1. Link A: Judicial Council of Cal., Com. Rep., *Judicial Council: Judicial Council Appointments to the California Access to Justice Commission* (Jan. 5, 2024), jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=12563673&GUID=B7843D87-26A7-4635-B0B5-6C56585EBFBE
2. Link B: Gov. Code, §§ 68655–68659, https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&division=&title=8.&part=&chapter=2.2.&article=

DRAFT



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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 26-068

For business meeting on April 24, 2026

Title

Civil Practice and Procedure: Name Change and Gender Change Rules and Forms

Report Type

Action Required

Effective Date

July 1, 2026

Date of Report

April 9, 2026

Contact

Maddie Joyner, 916-643-8068

maddie.joyner@jud.ca.gov

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected

Amend Cal. Rules of Court, rules 2.575 and 2.577; adopt forms NC-200, NC-210G, NC-221/NC-321/NC-521, NC-225, NC-230, and NC-230G; approve forms NC-015, NC-030, NC-200-INFO, and NC-250/NC-350/NC-550; revise forms NC-100, NC-100-INFO, NC-110, NC-130, NC-300, NC-300-INFO, NC-311, NC-312, NC-325, NC-330, NC-400, NC-400-INFO, NC-500, NC-500-INFO, NC-510G, NC-520, and NC-530; and revoke forms NC-125 and NC-150

Recommended by

Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee
Hon. Samantha P. Jessner, Chair

Executive Summary

The Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee recommends adopting, approving, revising, and revoking various Judicial Council forms that individuals use to request a change of name and recognition of a change of gender or sex identifier. The committee also recommends amending two related rules of court. Changes are needed to implement Assembly Bill 1084 (Stats. 2025, ch. 723) and Senate Bill 59 (Stats. 2025, ch. 738), as well as to update the rules and forms to better serve participants in the Secretary of State's address confidentiality program, make various technical or clarifying changes, and respond to feedback from members of the public regarding clarity and ease of use.

Recommendation

The Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective July 1, 2026:

1. Amend California Rules of Court, rules 2.575 and 2.577.
2. Adopt the following forms for mandatory use:
 - *Petition for Change of Name to Conform to Gender Identity* (form NC-200);
 - *Supplemental Attachment to Petition for Change of Name to Conform to Gender Identity* (form NC-210G);
 - *Proof of Service of Order to Show Cause* (form NC-221/NC-321/NC-521);
 - *Order to Show Cause—Change of Name to Conform to Gender Identity* (form NC-225);
 - *Decree Changing Name (200 Series)* (form NC-230); and
 - *Decree Changing Name of Minor (200 Series) (By Guardian)* (form NC-230G).
3. Approve the following forms for optional use:
 - *Ex Parte Request to Make Records Confidential* (form NC-015);
 - *Order to Make Records Confidential* (form NC-030);
 - *Instructions for Filing a Petition for Change of Name to Conform to Gender Identity* (form NC-200-INFO); and
 - *Notice of Hearing on Petition* (form NC-250/NC-350/NC-550).
4. Revise the following forms:
 - *Petition for Change of Name* (form NC-100);
 - *Instructions for Filing a Petition for Change of Name* (form NC-100-INFO);
 - *Name and Information About the Person Whose Name Is to Be Changed* (form NC-110);
 - *Decree Changing Name* (form NC-130);
 - *Birth Certificate for Child of Petitioner—Attachment* (form NC-311);
 - *Marriage License and Certificate—Attachment* (form NC-312);
 - *Order to Show Cause—Issuance of New Marriage License and Certificate* (form NC-325);
 - *Confidential Cover Sheet—Name Change Proceeding Under Address Confidentiality Program (Safe at Home)* (form NC-400);
 - *Information Sheet for Name Change Proceedings Under Address Confidentiality Program (Safe at Home)* (form NC-400-INFO);
 - *Petition for Recognition of Minor’s Change of Gender and Sex Identifier and for Issuance of New Birth Certificate and Change of Name* (form NC-500);
 - *Instructions for Filing Petition for Recognition of Minor’s Change of Gender and Sex Identifier* (form NC-500-INFO);
 - *Declaration of Guardian or Juvenile Attorney* (form NC-510G);

- *Order to Show Cause—Recognition of Minor’s Change of Gender and Issuance of New Birth Certificate* (form NC-520); and
- *Order Recognizing Minor’s Change of Gender and Sex Identifier and for Issuance of New Birth Certificate* (form NC-530).

5. Revise and retitle the following forms to add the word “Adult’s” to the titles:

- *Petition for Recognition of Adult’s Change of Gender and Sex Identifier, Name Change, and Issuance of New Certificates* (form NC-300);
- *Instructions for Filing Petition for Recognition of Adult’s Change of Gender and Sex Identifier, Name Change, and Issuance of New Certificates* (form NC-300-INFO); and
- *Order Recognizing Adult’s Change of Gender and Sex Identifier, for Name Change, and for Issuance of New Certificates* (form NC-330); and

6. Revoke *Order to Show Cause—Change of Name to Conform to Gender Identity* (form NC-125) and *Notice of Hearing on Petition* (form NC-150).

The text of the amended rules and the new, revised, and revoked forms are attached at pages 16–59.

Relevant Previous Council Action

The council first adopted name change forms effective January 2001 to standardize procedures used for name change proceedings throughout the state. These forms have received various modifications since then. For example, effective January 2010, the council adopted and approved new forms to implement confidential name changes as part of the Secretary of State’s address confidentiality program (Safe at Home). Additionally, in 2022, the council revoked the NC-200 form series to implement Assembly Bill 218 (Stats. 2021, ch. 577).¹

Analysis/Rationale

AB 1084 (see Link A) streamlines the process associated with a change of name and recognition of a change of gender and sex identifier by eliminating the order to show cause (OSC) requirement in certain circumstances.² The legislation requires certain OSC forms to state that if

¹ Prior to AB 218, the council adopted two sets of forms for petitions by adults: one set for petitions seeking only recognition of gender change (the NC-300 series) and another set for those seeking both recognition of gender change and name change at the same time (the NC-200 series). Under AB 218, however, combined petitions could include requests to have various administrative records reflect the petitioner’s changed name and gender, each with different requirements. The council consequently determined that a single petition that includes all possible requests should be used, and thus revoked the NC-200 form series.

² Prior to AB 1084, an OSC was required for petitions requesting a change of name to conform to one’s gender identity. AB 1084 eliminates the OSC requirement for (1) a proceeding for a change of name to conform an adult petitioner’s name to their gender identity and (2) a proceeding for a change of name to conform a minor’s name to their gender identity if all living parents sign the petition. Additionally, Code of Civil Procedure section 1277.5(a)

no objection is filed, the court must enter the order granting the change after the completion of six weeks.³ The legislation also eliminates a previous requirement that the petitioner file the judgment with the Secretary of State, State Registrar, or county clerk “within 30 days.”⁴

SB 59 (see Link B) requires the court to do both of the following:

- Keep court records that are associated with a proceeding for a “change of name or gender and sex identifier, or both”⁵ confidential. This includes the index, register of actions, and any other case information available through court systems used to provide the public with electronic access to court records.⁶
- Limit access to these records, with distinctions between who can access these records depending on whether the court has ordered the change and whether the petition was brought on behalf of a minor.⁷

The confidentiality requirements and limitations on access described above automatically apply if the petition is filed on or after July 1, 2026, or if the records in the proceeding were previously made confidential by statute or otherwise.⁸ SB 59 also allows petitioners to request these protections in certain circumstances.

The recommended forms and rule amendments are described generally below.

Forms NC-015 and NC-030

SB 59 allows a petitioner in a proceeding filed before July 1, 2026, to file a request to keep the records in the proceeding confidential.⁹ Additionally, if a petitioner discovers that their court records are not being kept confidential, the legislation allows a petitioner to apply for an order

and (b) requires the court, without a hearing and within six weeks of the petition’s filing, to enter the order granting the name change, except as provided.

Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 1277.5(b), an OSC continues to be required for a change of name to conform to a minor petitioner’s gender identity where not all living parents sign the petition.

³ Code Civ. Proc., § 1277.5(b)(2)(B); Health & Saf. Code, § 103430(e).

⁴ Health & Saf. Code, §§ 103431, 103435.

⁵ “Change of name or gender and sex identifier, or both” is a defined term that means “a proceeding for a change of gender and sex identifier pursuant to Section 103430 [of the Health and Safety Code], for a combined change of the petitioner’s name and recognition of the change to the petitioner’s gender and sex identifier pursuant to Section 103435 [of the Health and Safety Code], or for a change of name to conform the petitioner’s name to the petitioner’s gender identity pursuant to Title 8 (commencing with Section 1275) of Part 3 of the Code of Civil Procedure.”

⁶ Health & Saf. Code, § 103437(b)(1).

⁷ Health & Saf. Code, § 103437(b)(2)–(3).

⁸ Health & Saf. Code, § 103437(c)(1), (3).

⁹ Health & Saf. Code, § 103437(c)(2).

making the records confidential.¹⁰ The committee recommends approving two new optional-use forms for these purposes, forms NC-015 and NC-030.

NC-100 form series (name change forms)

The existing Judicial Council forms for name change petitions (forms NC-100 through NC-150) currently address all varieties of name changes. Under SB 59, court records relating to name changes to conform to gender identity are confidential. Therefore, the committee recommends splitting the existing content of the NC-100 form series into two sets of forms by (1) retaining the NC-100 form series for name changes that are not related to gender identity, which are not confidential, and (2) creating a new series of confidential forms in the currently unused NC-200 form series for name changes to conform to gender identity.

The committee recommends revisions to indicate that the NC-100 form series is no longer used for name changes to conform to gender identity¹¹ and to assist court users in determining which NC form series (NC-100, NC-200, NC-300, or NC-500) is most appropriate.¹² The committee also recommends revisions to eliminate duplicative fields¹³ and communicate additional information regarding the Safe at Home program.¹⁴

NC-200 form series (confidential forms for change of name to conform to gender identity)

To implement SB 59, the committee recommends a new series of confidential forms starting at form NC-200 for name changes to conform to gender identity. The committee recommends that the council adopt six mandatory forms and approve two optional forms in the NC-200 form series for this purpose. Except for an information sheet (form NC-200-INFO), the committee

¹⁰ Health & Saf. Code, § 103437(d).

¹¹ The committee recommends removing mentions of a name change to conform to gender identity from items 6, 7, 8, and 10 of current form NC-100-INFO and deleting item 6 of current form NC-100 and. On form NC-100-INFO, the committee also recommends various revisions to item 4 to help distinguish between name changes to conform to gender identity, name changes that are unrelated to gender identity, and recognition of a change of gender and sex identifier. On form NC-110, the committee also recommends deleting forms NC-300 and NC-500 as forms to which form NC-110 may attach because, as described below, the committee recommends incorporating the relevant portions of form NC-110 into forms NC-300 and NC-500 directly. The committee further recommends revoking forms NC-125 and NC-150, which describe gender-related changes, in light of the proposed restructuring of the NC-100 form series to change a person's name for reasons unrelated to their gender identity.

¹² See the instructions recommended for addition on the top of page 1 of form NC-100 and item 4 of form NC-100-INFO.

¹³ To prevent duplication within a form, the committee recommends deleting the prompts to insert one's name in item 5 of form NC-100 because the petitioner's name is already listed in item 1. The committee also recommends deleting information regarding the preparation of an original *Civil Case Cover Sheet* (form CM-010) from item 5 of current form NC-100-INFO, as similar information is already included in item 4.

¹⁴ The committee recommends adding instructions at the top of page 1 of form NC-100 to direct form users interested in the Safe at Home program to form NC-400-INFO. The committee also recommends revisions to item 3 of form NC-100-INFO to indicate that a Safe at Home program participant should not file anything with the court until Safe at Home has confirmed a person's active participation in the program. Finally, the committee recommends revisions to the top of form NC-130 to explain how to complete the form if the person whose name is being changed is a participant in the Safe at Home program.

recommends that all forms in the new NC-200 series include a “CONFIDENTIAL” banner at the top of each page.

The proposed new forms largely mirror the 10 existing forms in the NC-100 form series, except that the relevant content of form NC-110 is built into other new forms and form NC-120 would not be replicated.¹⁵ Finally, pursuant to AB 1084, the committee recommends including information in item 4 of form NC-200 and at the top of form NC-225 indicating that an OSC is proper if the petition is being filed on the behalf of a minor and the petition does not include the signatures of all the minor’s living parents.

NC-300 form series (confidential forms for change of gender for adult petitioners)

Forms NC-300 through NC-330 are the existing Judicial Council forms associated with petitions to recognize an adult’s change of gender. These forms also facilitate combined petitions to change an adult petitioner’s name and to recognize their change of gender,¹⁶ and to authorize the issuance of new certificates.¹⁷

To implement SB 59, the committee recommends revising the NC-300 form series to include a “CONFIDENTIAL” banner at the top of each page, except for the information sheet (form NC-300-INFO). The committee recommends adding “Adult’s” to the title of forms NC-300, NC-300-INFO, and NC-330 to further distinguish between these forms and the forms used for minors.

The committee recommends various form revisions to reorganize form NC-300 and incorporate the relevant items from form NC-110 directly into the petition.¹⁸ These include, among other things, revisions to distinguish between the signatures required by all petitioners and the signatures required only by petitioners requesting a name change. In response to feedback from a member of the public, the committee also recommends revising item 6 of form NC-330 to refer to the date on which a marriage license or certificate was issued. Currently, the form lacks clarity by using “marriage on *(date)*.”

To implement AB 1084, the committee recommends revisions that eliminate the OSC requirement for adult petitioners seeking a change of name to conform to their gender identity¹⁹

¹⁵ Specifically, instead of creating a separate attachment form similar to form NC-110, the committee recommends incorporating the relevant portions of form NC-110 directly into new form NC-200. Additionally, only *Order to Show Cause—Change of Name to Conform to Gender Identity* (form NC-125) is needed in the new NC-200 form series (new form NC-225), which will be used exclusively for changes of name that are to conform to gender identity.

¹⁶ Health & Saf. Code, § 103435(a).

¹⁷ Health & Saf. Code, § 103425.

¹⁸ Not all items from form NC-110 are relevant in the context of form NC-300. For example, form NC-300 only addresses adult petitioners and form NC-110 contains content for persons under 18 years of age. The committee recommends revising form NC-300-INFO to delete references to form NC-110.

¹⁹ Code Civ. Proc., § 1277.5(a).

while retaining the OSC requirement if a person whose gender is to be changed requests the issuance of a new marriage license and certificate but their spouse does not sign the petition.²⁰ The committee also recommends adding new statutory language to item 3 of the OSC form (form NC-325) and removing from the order (form NC-330) references to the 30-day time period for filing a copy of the order with certain state and local officials.²¹

NC-400 form series (Safe at Home confidential cover sheet and information sheet)

The Safe at Home program is a confidential address program administered by the California Secretary of State's office that offers a substitute mailing address for program participants. Form NC-400 is a confidential cover sheet for name change petitions under the program. The Secretary of State's office expressed concerns that, if the petition is filed with the court before confirming that the program has the intended name change on file, the petitioner will not be able to complete the forms correctly. To highlight the requirements of the program, the committee recommends adding information to the top of form NC-400 explaining (1) when the form should be used, (2) that a letter confirming that the person is an active participant in Safe at Home must predate the petition, and (3) what information is provided on form NC-400-INFO.²² Additionally, the committee recommends revising item 3 of form NC-400-INFO to state: "Do not file anything with the court until you are an active participant in the Safe at Home program."²³ The committee further recommends adding information about the court keeping the current legal name of the petitioner confidential if the petitioner is a participant in the Safe at Home program.²⁴

NC-500 form series (confidential forms for change of gender for minors)

Forms NC-500 through NC-530 are the existing Judicial Council forms associated with recognition of a minor's change of gender. The forms also facilitate combined petitions to change a minor's name and to recognize their change of gender and authorize the issuance of a new birth certificate reflecting those changes.

The committee recommends adding a "CONFIDENTIAL" banner at the top of each page, except for the information sheet (form NC-500-INFO). Like form NC-300, the committee recommends various form revisions to reorganize form NC-500 and incorporate the relevant items from form

²⁰ This includes (1) deleting all references to *Order to Show Cause—Change of Name to Conform to Gender Identity* (form NC-125), as a separate order to show cause already exists (*Order to Show Cause—Issuance of New Marriage License and Certificate* (form NC-325)); (2) revising form NC-325 to add "after the completion of the six weeks" as required by Health and Safety Code section 103430(e)(3); (3) revising item 7 of form NC-300-INFO to reflect that a hearing date will be set if a non-signing spouse files a timely objection; and (4) deleting item 4b from existing form NC-300 because the only order to show cause remaining is requested on item 3d of *Marriage License and Certificate—Attachment* (form NC-312).

²¹ Health & Saf. Code, § 103430(e)(3).

²² The committee also recommends reformatting the instruction box to be easier to read and revising the first and fourth bullet points to use simpler language.

²³ The committee recommends revising much of the form to use plain language and to use the second person, in keeping with current practices for information sheets.

²⁴ Code Civ. Proc., § 1277(b)(3).

NC-110 directly into the petition.²⁵ To implement AB 1084, the committee recommends various revisions to indicate that, if a change of name is requested, an OSC must issue if not all living parents sign the petition.²⁶ The committee also recommends removing references to the 30-day time period for filing a copy of the order with certain state and local officials. Finally, the committee recommends revising form NC-520 to add new statutory language to the OSC.²⁷

Miscellaneous form revisions

Throughout the forms, the committee recommends changing “judge” to “judicial officer,” which will eliminate the need for commissioners to strike out “judge” when signing these forms. To clarify which name should be used where, the committee further recommends revisions throughout these forms to use “current legal name” and “proposed legal name,” or in the case of the decree forms, “legal name when petition was filed” and “new legal name.” The committee also recommends revisions to clarify, where appropriate, that the typed or printed name near the signature line should use the person’s current legal name. Finally, the committee recommends making various technical or clarifying changes.

Rules 2.575 and 2.577

The committee recommends rule amendments and a new advisory committee comment to highlight the differences between sealing related to the Safe at Home program, sealing in other contexts, and statutorily required confidentiality. The committee recommends amending rule 2.575 to follow the language of Code of Civil Procedure section 1277(b). The committee also recommends clarifying amendments to rule 2.577(a), which currently addresses requests to file records under seal for both name change petitioners under the Safe at Home program and for other petitioners. The amendment more clearly narrows subdivision (a) of rule 2.577 to address only the procedure for sealing records in name change proceedings under the Safe at Home program. The committee also recommends adding an advisory committee comment to explain that rule 2.577 is not intended to abrogate or limit any duty of the court to keep records confidential and to clarify the scope of subdivision (a).

Policy implications

The revised forms in this proposal implement new laws enacted by the Legislature, and the amended rules are intended to prevent confusion between the Safe at Home program and the protections enacted by SB 59. Accordingly, the key policy implications for this proposal are to

²⁵ Not all items from form NC-110 are relevant in the context of form NC-500. For example, form NC-500 only addresses name changes for minors, and form NC-110 contains content for persons over 18 years of age. The committee further recommends revising form NC-500-INFO to delete references to form NC-110 and to reflect the petition’s revised content. Additionally, existing item 9 of form NC-500 has been deleted and its relevant subitems incorporated directly into new item 10; a new subheading, “Request for Issuance of New California Certificate,” has been inserted before item 8.

²⁶ Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 1277.5(b), the committee recommends adding language at item 10 of form NC-500 indicating that a request to issue an OSC should only be made if the petition does not include the signatures of all living parents. The committee also recommends deleting language from items 3 and 6 of form NC-500-INFO indicating that an OSC is required for any petition that seeks a decree changing a minor’s name.

²⁷ Code Civ. Proc., § 1277.5(b)(2)(A).

ensure that council forms reflect the law correctly and are not misleading to parties. These recommendations also help implement Goal I, “Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion,” of the judicial branch’s strategic plan by helping meet the needs of self-represented litigants through more accessible forms.

Comments

This proposal was circulated for public comment from December 5, 2025, through January 7, 2026, as part of the regular winter invitation-to-comment cycle. The proposal received eight comments, including comments from three courts, two advocacy organizations, one bar association, one attorney, and one anonymous commenter.²⁸ Three commenters agreed with the proposal, two agreed if modified, and three did not indicate a position; no commenters disagreed with the proposal.

The more significant comments and changes made in response are summarized below. The committee thanks commenters for taking the time to respond to this proposal. The full text of the comments and the committee’s responses are provided in the attached chart of comments at pages 60–102.

Forms NC-015 and NC-030

The committee received several comments on proposed forms NC-015 and NC-030. On form NC-015, Equality California asked to include “ex parte” in the form’s title and indicate that requests made on form NC-015 are not subject to filing fees. The committee recommends including “ex parte” in the title of form NC-015 and further recommends adding information about ex parte filing and filing fees to a new instruction box at the top of form NC-015.

Equality California also suggested that an item on form NC-015 soliciting the reason the court records should be made confidential was too complex and that simply requesting confidentiality was sufficient. The committee recommends simplifying this item (now renumbered as item 5) to remove an explanation of how the records were previously made confidential, such as by a previous statute or order. However, the committee recommends retaining the two broad categories outlined in statute, that the petition was filed before July 1, 2026 (Health and Safety Code section 103437(c)(2)) and that court records are erroneously not being kept confidential (Health and Safety Code section 103437(d)). The committee recommends retaining these distinctions because having petitioners identify that court records are not being kept confidential may help courts identify system or process errors. The committee further recommends making conforming changes to form NC-030.

Additionally, both Equality California and the anonymous commenter suggested that proposed form NC-015 did not provide sufficient guidance to parents. Based on these comments, the committee recognized that persons other than a parent or parents can sign these petitions on behalf of minors and recommends revising form NC-015 to ask whether the person filling out the

²⁸ As reflected in the chart of comments, both advocacy organization comments were submitted with multiple supporting commenters.

form is the “parent, guardian, near relative, or friend who signed the petition listed in item 2, which was brought by, or on the behalf of, a minor.”²⁹ To prevent confusion regarding whether the forms are soliciting the name of the minor or the name of an adult acting on their behalf, the committee recommends soliciting both names. Additionally, the committee recommends including a signature instruction to clarify who can sign form NC-015.

Finally, Equality California provided suggested language for the court’s orders denying the request on form NC-030 by reducing the denial rationale to two options: (1) the application was incomplete or (2) the case was not for a change of name or gender and sex identifier, or both. The committee instead recommends that the reasons for denial reflect whether the application was incomplete and an “other” option because a request may be denied for other reasons.³⁰

Recognizing more than two parents

On forms NC-100 and NC-200, Equality California suggested changing “two parents” to “all parents” because “California will occasionally recognize more than two legal parents, and the point is to show that all parents are in support of the request.”³¹ The Superior Court of San Diego County similarly asked whether there should be an additional space for a third parent’s name and address on form NC-200 and cited to Family Code section 7612(c).

The committee does not recommend changes to reflect more than two parents because this situation seems rare enough that changing the petition would be confusing for most people. The committee does, however, recommend adding information to the information sheets (forms NC-100-INFO, NC-200-INFO, and NC-500-INFO) indicating that if the child has more than two legal parents, *Attachment to Judicial Council Form* (form MC-025) should be attached to the petition to provide additional information.

Sex as stated on original birth certificate

Forms NC-110, NC-200, NC-300, and NC-500 request one’s sex as stated on their original birth certificate. Both Equality California and the American Civil Liberties Union urged the committee to remove this information. The committee does not recommend removing this item from these forms. Code of Civil Procedure section 1279.5 requires courts to use the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS) and Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) to determine whether an applicant for a name change is required to register as a sex offender. The federal database for this purpose requires a sex identifier to conduct a search

²⁹ The committee notes that persons other than a parent or parents can sign petitions on the behalf of minors. See Health and Safety Code section 103430(b)(1). The committee also recommends listing the name of the person whose name or gender or sex identifier, or both, was sought to be changed.

³⁰ There may be other circumstances that arise that could lead to a denial, such as when a person believes that the court erred in not keeping their records confidential but filed their petition before July 1, 2026, and never requested confidentiality.

³¹ The committee notes that the related statutory language in some instances uses binary language like “both parents,” while in other circumstances uses more expansive language like “all of the minor’s living parents.” Compare Code of Civil Procedure sections 1277.5(b) and 1278.5.

and only recognizes binary options (male or female). Thus, the forms need to collect this information. Given the limitations posed federally, the committee recommends including a parenthetical instruction in these forms explaining which box to check if the person's birth certificate reflects a nonbinary gender marker and noting that the purpose of the information is for a federal database search. The committee also recommends deleting "original" before "birth certificate" to account for the possibility of previously amended birth certificates.

Venue

As circulated for comment, forms NC-100, NC-200, and NC-300 each had an item asking whether the petitioner resides in this county or does not live in California. Equality California commented that the item should instead refer to the person whose name is being changed, as indicated by Code of Civil Procedure section 1276(a) and (g). The committee recommends revising the existing item on these forms to refer to the person whose name is to be changed rather than the petitioner. Because existing form NC-100 can be used to change the name of more than one person, the committee also recommends that item 2 on form NC-100 account for the possibility of different answers to the venue item among different people.

Decree forms

Equality California noted that the proposed titles (as circulated for comment) of forms NC-230 (*Decree Changing Name to Conform to Gender Identity*) and NC-230G (*Decree Changing Name of Minor to Conform to Gender Identity (by Guardian)*) will, in practice, force an individual to disclose a change of gender identity (commonly known as "outing") every time a person must use one of these decrees to update other records. To avoid outing persons who need to use these decree forms, the committee recommends omitting from the title "to Conform to Gender Identity." This will result in a more generic title for these two decree forms to instead contain "(200 Series)." Unlike the decree forms, the committee believes that continuing to include "Gender Identity" in the other form titles will assist self-represented litigants in selecting the correct forms.

Signature lines on forms NC-300 and NC-500

To provide additional clarity to form users, the committee recommends various revisions to the signature lines on form NC-300. First, the committee recommends adding an instruction before the signature lines that reads, "All petitioners must sign all items on this page. Petitioners requesting a change of name (item 5) must additionally sign on page 3." These revisions are intended to simplify the signature instructions by referring to both changes of name and the item where a request for a change of name is made. Second, the committee recommends making the declaration under penalty of perjury required for all petitioners, not just petitioners requesting a change of name.

For similar reasons, the committee also recommends various revisions to the signature lines that appear on form NC-500.³² The committee recommends revisions to require all petitioners, not

³² The committee also recommends confirming revisions to the step-by-step instructions in item 4 of form NC-500-INFO.

just name change petitioners, to sign the declaration under penalty of perjury. This would standardize the approach taken on form NC-500 with the approach recommended above for form NC-300. Because there would no longer be distinctions between what all petitioners must sign versus what only change-of-name petitioners must sign on form NC-500, the committee's recommended approach would reduce confusion for form users regarding who should sign where.³³ The committee's recommendation is consistent with Equality California's comment on form NC-500 that requiring a signature under penalty of perjury for all request types "is not prohibited and will simplify the process."³⁴

Correcting an error on form NC-200-INFO

As circulated for comment, item 6 of form NC-200-INFO erroneously implied that a person must request a hearing date if a petition is being filed on behalf of a minor and not all of the minor's living parents sign. Instead, Code of Civil Procedure section 1277.5(b)(2)(D) prohibits a hearing date from being set unless an objection is timely filed and that objection shows good cause. The committee recommends revising item 6 of form NC-200-INFO to account for that distinction.

Requests for specific comment

The committee proposed cross-numbering two forms, form NC-221/NC-321/NC-521 and form NC-250/NC-350/NC-550. The committee requested specific comment on the proposed cross-numbering. The committee received comments from the Superior Court of Orange County, Family Law and Juvenile Divisions, and the Superior Court of San Diego County indicating that the proposed cross-numbering of forms NC-221/NC-321/NC-521 and NC-250/NC-350/NC-550 would not create any difficulties for courts. The committee therefore recommends that these forms be cross-numbered.

The committee also requested specific comment as to whether any additional objections should be listed on item 1 of form NC-250/NC-350/NC-550 and whether an ambiguity on item 6 of existing form NC-330, which uses the phrase "marriage on *(date)*," should be resolved by using the more specific "date of issuance." The committee does not recommend adding additional objections to form NC-250/NC-350/NC-550.³⁵ Finally, the majority of commenters supported referring to the date of issuance on form NC-330, and the committee agrees with that approach.

³³ Consequently, the committee recommends removing the two instructional text boxes on page 3 of form NC-500 as included on the form when it circulated for comment.

³⁴ To conform the signature lines on form NC-500 with form NC-300, the committee further recommends adding instructional text indicating that if the petitioner is represented by an attorney, the attorney's signature should follow to prevent the inference that having an attorney is required.

³⁵ The Orange County Bar Association suggested the possibility of a catch-all or "other" objection, but did not offer reasons why the current objections listed on the form were insufficient. The Superior Court of San Diego County suggested adding objections to a decree changing name, however, the committee does not recommend that approach because there are differences regarding how these objections are received and how hearings are requested. See item 6 on form NC-100-INFO.

Alternatives considered

The committee did not consider the alternative of taking no action because the new forms and revisions are required to implement statutory changes and to bring the forms into conformity with other aspects of the law. The committee discussed not making the declaration under penalty of perjury mandatory for all petitioners on forms NC-300 and NC-500. However, changing the information relating to one's identity is closely connected to the potential for fraud and identity theft. Even if not legislatively mandated, including this statement is intended to stem fraudulent uses of these forms. Requiring all form users to sign this statement is also consistent with past practice on form NC-300 and is supported by at least one commenter on form NC-500.

The committee also considered how to best distinguish between forms NC-130 and NC-230, as well as forms NC-130G and NC-230G, given comments that the titles of the decree forms in the 200 form series should not include "Gender Identity." The committee discussed not including anything in the titles of the decree forms in the NC-200 form series to distinguish those forms from similar forms in the NC-100 form series, but ultimately determined that adding "(200 Series)" to the title of forms NC-230 and NC-230G would assist judicial officers in selecting the correct decree form.

Fiscal and Operational Impacts

The committee anticipates that this proposal will require courts to train court staff and judicial officers on the new forms content. Courts will also incur costs to incorporate the new and revised forms into paper or electronic processes, particularly given that Health and Safety Code section 103437(b) contemplates different categories of people maintaining access to these court records over time. SB 59 requires the council to develop rules and forms, as necessary, for this purpose by July 1, 2026. The impacts arising from this new law—including the education of judicial officers and court staff—are largely a result of the changes in statute, not the forms proposal, and therefore cannot be avoided.

Attachments and Links

1. Cal. Rules of Court, rules 2.575 and 2.577, at pages 14–15
2. Forms NC-015, NC-030, NC-100, NC-100-INFO, NC-110, NC-125, NC-130, NC-150, NC-200, NC-200-INFO, NC-210G, NC-221/NC-321/NC-521, NC-225, NC-230, NC-230G, NC-250/NC-350/NC-550, NC-300, NC-300-INFO, NC-311, NC-312, NC-325, NC-330, NC-400, NC-400-INFO, NC-500, NC-500-INFO, NC-510G, NC-520, and NC-530, at pages 16–59
3. Chart of comments, at pages 60–102
4. Link A: Assem. Bill 1084 (Stats. 2025, ch. 723),
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1084
5. Link B: Sen. Bill 59 (Stats. 2025, ch. 738),
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB59

Rules 2.575 and 2.577 of the California Rules of Court are amended, effective July 1, 2026, to read:

Rule 2.575. Confidential information in name change proceedings under address confidentiality program

(a) * * *

(b) Application of chapter

The rules in this chapter apply to records filed in a change of name proceeding ~~under Code of Civil Procedure section 1277(b)~~ by a confidential name change petitioner who alleges any of the following reasons or circumstances listed in Code of Civil Procedure section 1277(b) as a reason for the name change:

~~(1) The petitioner is seeking to avoid domestic violence, as defined in Family Code section 6211.~~

~~(2) The petitioner is seeking to avoid stalking, as defined in Penal Code section 646.9.~~

~~(3) The petitioner is, or is filing on behalf of, a victim of sexual assault, as defined in Evidence Code section 1036.2.~~

(c)–(e) * * *

Rule 2.577. Procedures for filing confidential name change records under seal

(a) Court approval required

Records in a name change proceeding brought by a confidential name change petitioner may not be filed under seal without a court order. A request by a confidential name change petitioner to file records under seal may be made under the procedures in this chapter. ~~A request by any other petitioner to file records under seal must be made under rules 2.550–2.573.~~

(b)–(h) * * *

Advisory Committee Comment

This rule is not intended to abrogate or limit any duty of the court to keep court records confidential (for example, court records, including the index, register of actions, and any other case information available through court systems used to provide the public with electronic access to court records, associated with a proceeding for a change of name or gender and sex identifier, or both, under Health and Safety Code section 103437).

1
2
3
4

Subdivision (a). This subdivision describes procedures for filing records under seal in a name change proceeding brought by a confidential name change petitioner (a participant in the Safe at Home address confidentiality program). (See rule 2.575(a)(1).)

DRAFT

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE: TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.: EMAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name):	FOR COURT USE ONLY DRAFT 2026-02-06 Not approved by the Judicial Council
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:	
PETITION OF (name):	
EX PARTE REQUEST TO MAKE RECORDS CONFIDENTIAL (Health & Saf. Code, § 103437)	CASE NUMBER:

Use this form only if a petition requesting one of the following is already on file with the court:

- Recognition of a change of gender and sex identifier.
- A change of name to conform to gender identity.
- A change of name and recognition of a change of gender and sex identifier.

Note to clerk: This request may be made ex parte and without a filing fee (see Health and Saf. Code, § 103437).

1. On (date): _____, a petition was filed to (check one):
 - a. ☐ Change a person's name **and** recognize a change of gender and sex identifier.
 - b. ☐ Recognize a person's change of gender and sex identifier.
 - c. ☐ Change a person's name to conform to their gender identity.
2. The petition:
 - a. Was filed in the Superior Court of California, County of (specify): _____.
 - b. Was assigned the following case number (specify): _____.
 - c. Sought to change the name or gender and sex identifier, or both, of the following person (current name): _____.
 - d. ☐ Was made by, or on behalf of, a minor.
3. My name is (name): _____ and I am the (check one):
 - a. ☐ Petitioner who filed the petition listed in item 2.
 - b. ☐ Parent, guardian, near relative, or friend who signed the petition listed in item 2, which was brought by, or on behalf of, a minor.
 - c. ☐ Attorney for the petitioner.
4. The court has (check one):
 - a. ☐ Ordered the change described in item 1.
 - b. ☐ Not ordered the change described in item 1.
5. I am asking the court to make the petition listed in item 2, and all records associated with the petition, confidential because (check one):
 - a. ☐ The petition listed in item 2 was filed **before** July 1, 2026.
 - b. ☐ The petition listed in item 2 and other records in that proceeding were previously made confidential, but they are not being kept confidential by the court. (You may attach form MC-025 to provide additional information.)
6. Number of pages attached (specify number): _____



PETITION OF <i>(name)</i> :	CASE NUMBER:
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(If you checked item 3b and the person listed in item 2c is still a minor, the parent, guardian, near relative, or friend who signed the petition should sign immediately below. If you checked item 3a, you should also sign immediately below.)

Date:

Type or Print Name



Signature of Requestor

Date:

Type or Print Name



Signature of Requestor

(If the requestor is represented by an attorney, attorney's signature follows.)

Date:

Type or Print Name of Requestor's Attorney



Signature of Attorney

DRAFT

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE: TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.: EMAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name):	FOR COURT USE ONLY DRAFT 2026-02-19 Not approved by the Judicial Council
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:	
PETITION OF (name):	
ORDER TO MAKE RECORDS CONFIDENTIAL (Health & Saf. Code, § 103437)	CASE NUMBER:

Note to clerk: If the court grants this request, a person's access to the court records will depend on whether the court has ordered the change (see item 3) and may also depend on whether the petition was brought on behalf of a minor (see item 2). Read Health and Safety Code section 103437(b) for more information.

1. On (date): _____, a petition was filed to (check one):
 - a. ☐ Change a person's name and recognize a change of gender and sex identifier.
 - b. ☐ Recognize person's change of gender and sex identifier.
 - c. ☐ Change a person's name to conform to their gender identity.

2. The petition:
 - a. Was filed in the Superior Court of California, County of (specify): _____
 - b. Was assigned the following case number (specify): _____
 - c. Sought to change the name or gender and sex identifier, or both, of the following person (current name): _____
 - d. ☐ Was made by, or on behalf of, a minor.

3. The court has (check one):
 - a. ☐ Ordered the change described in item 1.
 - b. ☐ Not ordered the change described in item 1.

4. The court was asked to make the petition listed in item 2, and all records associated with the petition, confidential because (check one):
 - a. ☐ The petition listed in item 2 was filed before July 1, 2026.
 - b. ☐ The petition listed in item 2 and other records in that proceeding were previously made confidential, but they are not being kept confidential by the court.

5. The court, having reviewed this request, makes the following ruling:
 - a. ☐ This request is granted. This order, the request for this order, the petition listed in item 2, and all records associated with the petition must be kept confidential and accessible only by the persons described in Health and Safety Code section 103437(b) in accordance with Health and Safety Code section 103437(b) and (c).
 - b. ☐ The request is denied because (check all that apply):
 - (1) ☐ The request was incomplete.
 - (2) ☐ Other (specify): _____

Date: _____

Judicial Officer

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: TELEPHONE NO.: EMAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name):	STATE BAR NUMBER: STATE: ZIP CODE: FAX NO.:	FOR COURT USE ONLY DRAFT 2026-02-05 Not approved by the Judicial Council
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:		
PETITION OF (name of each petitioner):		
PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME		CASE NUMBER:

Instructions for completing this form: Before you complete this form, read *Instructions for Filing a Petition for Change of Name* (form NC-100-INFO). If you want to file this petition under the Safe at Home (address confidentiality) program, read form NC-400-INFO first. Do not use form NC-100 if the change of name is related to gender identity. To petition for a change of name to conform to gender identity, use form NC-200. To petition for a change of name as part of a petition to also recognize a change of gender and sex identifier, use form NC-300 for an adult or form NC-500 for a minor.

1. The petitioner is (current legal name):
2. The person, or all persons, listed in item 3 (check a or b):
 - a. ☐ reside in this county.
 - b. ☐ do not live in California and (check 1 or 2):
 - (1) ☐ want a name change on a marriage license, and were married in this county.
 - (2) ☐ want a name change on their or their child's birth certificate, which was issued in this county.
 - ☐ Continued (If multiple people are listed in item 3 and the answer to this question is different for those people, you must attach answers to this question for each individual as Attachment 2.)
3. Petitioner requests that the court decree the following name changes (list every name that you are seeking to change):

<u>Current legal name</u>		<u>Proposed legal name</u>
a.	changed to	
b.	changed to	
c.	changed to	

☐ Continued (If you are seeking to change additional names, you must prepare a list and attach it to this petition as Attachment 3.)
4. Petitioner requests that the court issue an order directing all interested persons to appear or file objections to show cause why this petition for change of name of the persons identified in item 3 should not be granted.
5. The number of persons under 18 years of age whose names are to be changed is (specify):
6. If this petition requests the change of name of any person or persons under 18 years, this request is being made by
 - a. ☐ two parents.
 - b. ☐ one parent.
 - c. ☐ near relative (relationship):
 - d. ☐ guardian.
 - e. ☐ attorney for an individual under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court:
 - f. ☐ other (specify):
7. For each person whose name is to be changed (see item 3), petitioner attaches Name and Information About the Person Whose Name Is to Be Changed (form NC-110).
8. Number of pages attached (specify number):

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILING A PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

1. Where to File

- California residents: The petition for change of name must be filed in the superior court of the county where the person whose name is to be changed is a resident.
- Non-California residents: If the person whose name is to be changed is also requesting an order for the issuance of a new California marriage license and certificate, a new California birth certificate for the person whose name is to be changed, or a new California birth certificate for a minor or adult child of the person whose name is to be changed, the petition for change of name must be filed in the superior court of the county where the marriage took place, or where the birth certificate was issued.

2. Whose Name May Be Changed

The petition may be used to change your own name and, under certain circumstances, the names of others (e.g., children under 18 years of age).

3. Confidentiality of Certain Names

If you want to file a petition for change of name and have your current and proposed names kept confidential as part of Safe at Home, the Secretary of State's address confidentiality program (Code Civ. Proc., § 1277(b)), **do not file anything with the court** until Safe at Home has confirmed you are an active participant in the program. Read *Information Sheet for Name Change Proceedings Under Address Confidentiality Program (Safe at Home)* (form NC-400-INFO) for more information.

4. What Forms Are Required

If you are requesting a change of name unrelated to your gender identity, prepare an original and two copies of each of the following documents:

- Petition for Change of Name* (form NC-100)
- Name and Information About the Person Whose Name Is to Be Changed* (form NC-110) (attach as many copies as necessary)
- Order to Show Cause—Change of Name* (form NC-120)
- Decree Changing Name* (form NC-130 or, for guardians, form NC-130G)
- Civil Case Cover Sheet* (form CM-010)

In addition, a guardian must prepare and attach *Supplemental Attachment to Petition for Change of Name (Declaration of Guardian)* (form NC-110G) for each child whose name is to be changed.

Local courts may require additional local forms. Check with the court to determine if additional forms are required.

If you are requesting a change of name to conform to your gender identity, please read *Instructions for Filing a Petition for Change of Name to Conform to Gender Identity* (form NC-200-INFO).

If you are requesting a change of name and recognition of a change of gender and sex identifier, read the following:

- Instructions for Filing Petition for Recognition of Adult's Change of Gender and Sex Identifier, Name Change, and Issuance of New Certificates* (form NC-300-INFO) if you are an adult petitioning on your own behalf.
- Instructions for Filing Petition for Recognition of Minor's Change of Gender and Sex Identifier* (form NC-500-INFO) if you are petitioning on behalf of a minor.

5. Filing and Filing Fee

If you are filing in person or by mail, file the original versions (not copies) of the forms listed above with the clerk of the court and obtain two file-endorsed copies of the petition (form NC-100). You will be charged a filing fee unless you qualify for a fee waiver. (If you want to apply for a fee waiver, read *Request to Waive Court Fees* (form FW-001) and *Information Sheet on Waiver of Court Fees and Costs* (form FW-001-INFO).) There is no filing fee for minors in the State's address confidentiality program (Safe at Home).

6. Requesting a Court Hearing Date and Obtaining the Order to Show Cause

When you file *Order to Show Cause—Change of Name* (form NC-120), you will need to ask the court for a hearing date. You should request a date that is at least six weeks after the date you file the form. Take the completed form to the clerk's office. The clerk will provide the hearing date and location, obtain the judicial officer's signature, file the original, and give you a copy.

7. Publishing the Order to Show Cause

In most cases, a copy of the *Order to Show Cause—Change of Name* must be published in a local newspaper of general circulation once a week for **at least four consecutive weeks** before the date of the hearing. You must select the newspaper from among those newspapers legally qualified to publish orders and notices. The newspaper used must file a Proof of Publication with the superior court before the hearing. If no newspaper of general circulation is published in the county, the court may order the *Order to Show Cause* to be posted by the clerk.



But you **do not have to publish** the order if the following applies:

- You are a participant in the State Witness Program;
- You are a participant in the address confidentiality program, and the petition alleges that you are petitioning to avoid (a) domestic violence, (b) stalking, (c) sexual assault, or (d) human trafficking; or
- The name change is for a minor or nonminor dependent under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.

8. Name Change for Children

- If you are a petitioning parent requesting the name change for a child under 18 years of age, and one of the parents, if living, does not join in consenting to the name change, the petitioning parent must have a copy of the *Order to Show Cause* or notice of the time and place of the hearing served on a nonconsenting parent. Service must be made **at least 30 days prior to the hearing**. Service must be in person or, if out of state, by mail, in the manner described in Code of Civil Procedure section 413.10, 414.10, 415.10, or 415.40.
- If a nonconsenting parent resides in California, the order or notice must be personally served on a nonconsenting parent. You, as the person filing this case, cannot personally serve this document.
- If a nonconsenting parent resides outside California, that parent may be served by sending a copy of the order or notice by first-class mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested.
- If you are the guardian of a minor and filing a petition to change the name of that minor, you must (1) provide notice of the hearing to any living parent of the child by personal service at least 30 days before the hearing, or (2) if either or both parents are deceased or cannot be located, serve notice of the hearing on the child's grandparents, if living, not less than 30 days before the hearing. Service must be made in person or, if out of state, by mail, in the manner described in Code of Civil Procedure section 413.10, 414.10, 415.10, or 415.40.

If you have served a parent or grandparent, file a copy of the completed *Proof of Service of Order to Show Cause* (form NC-121) with the court before the hearing. If the child has more than two legal parents, please attach form MC-025 to the petition and explain.

9. Name Change for Person in Jail or Prison or on Parole

If you are a person in county jail, or under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (in state prison, or on parole) you may file a petition to change your name, but must serve the petition on a government agency.

- If in county jail, you must provide a copy of the petition to the county sheriff's department. Check with the department as to how that should be done.
- If in state prison, you must provide a copy of the petition to the warden. Check with the warden's office as to how that should be done.
- If on parole, you must provide a copy of the petition to the regional parole administrator. Check with the administrator's office as to how that should be done.

After you have provided a copy to the sheriff, warden, or regional parole administrator, file a copy of the completed *Proof of Service By Mail* (form POS-030) with the court.

Note that the declaration on form NC-110 as to whether the petitioner is in jail or under jurisdiction of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is only for purposes of determining if service of the petition is required.

10. Court Hearing

If no written objection is filed at least two court days before the scheduled hearing, the court may grant the petition and sign the decree without a hearing. Check with the court to find out if a hearing will be held. If there is a hearing, bring copies of all documents to the hearing. If the judicial officer grants the petition, the judicial officer will sign the original decree.

11. Requesting Accommodations for Disability

If you have a disability and need an accommodation to help you access your court hearing, you can use *Disability Accommodation Request* (form MC-410) to make your request. You can also ask the court's ADA Coordinator in your court for help. For more information, see *How to Request a Disability Accommodation for Court* (form MC-410-INFO).

12. Issuance of New Birth Certificate

If you were born in California and want to amend a birth certificate to show the name change, you should contact the following office:

California Department of Public Health
Vital Records - MS 5103
P.O. Box 997410
Sacramento, CA 95899-7410

Phone: 916-445-2684
Website: www.cdph.ca.gov

Local courts may supplement these instructions. Check with the court to determine whether supplemental information is available. For instance, the court may provide you with additional written information identifying the department that handles name change petitions, the times when petitions are heard, and the newspapers that may be used to publish the *Order to Show Cause*.

PETITION OF (name of petitioner or petitioners): FOR CHANGE OF NAME	CASE NUMBER:
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**NAME AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE PERSON
WHOSE NAME IS TO BE CHANGED**
Attachment to Petition (form NC-100)

Attachment _____ of _____

(You must use a **separate** attachment for **each person** whose name is to be changed. If petitioner is a guardian of a minor, a declaration of guardian (form NC-110G) must also be completed and attached for each minor whose name is to be changed.)

1. Petitioner applies for a decree to change the name of the following person:

a. ☐ Self☐ Another person

(1) Current legal name (specify):

(2) Proposed legal name (specify):

(3) Born on (date of birth):

and presently

☐ under 18 years of age☐ 18 years of age or older

(4) Born at (place of birth):

(5) Sex as stated on birth certificate (check one; if your birth certificate reflects a nonbinary (X) gender marker, check the box shown on the original birth certificate for the purpose of a federal database search):

☐ Male☐ Female

(6) Current residence address (street):

City:

County:

State:

Zip:

b. Reason for name change (explain):

c. Relationship of the petitioner to the person whose name will be changed:

(1) ☐ Self(2) ☐ Parent(3) ☐ Guardian(4) ☐ Guardian ad litem or attorney for minor appointed by juvenile court(5) ☐ Near relative (indicate relationship):(6) ☐ Other (specify):

d. If the person whose name will be changed is under 18 years of age, provide the names and addresses, if known, of the following persons:

(1) Parent (name): (address):

(2) Parent (name): (address):

(3) (Only if neither parent is living) Near relatives (names, relationships, and addresses):



PETITION OF (name of petitioner or petitioners): FOR CHANGE OF NAME	CASE NUMBER:
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(If the person whose name will be changed is 18 years of age or older, that person must sign the following declaration.)

DECLARATION

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that (check one) ☐ I am not ☐ I am under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (in state prison or on parole) or in county jail **and** (check one) ☐ I am not ☐ I am required to register as a sex offender under Penal Code section 290.

Date:

Type or Print Name of Person Whose Name Is to Be Changed
(Use Current Legal Name)

Signature of Person Whose Name Is to Be Changed

(If petitioner is represented by an attorney, the attorney's signature follows):

Date:

Type or Print Name of Petitioner's Attorney

Signature of Attorney

(Each petitioner must sign this petition in the space provided below or, if additional pages are attached, at the end of the last attachment. If the petitioner is the person whose name is to be changed, use the petitioner's current legal name.) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information in the foregoing petition is true and correct.

Date:

Type or Print Name

Signature of Petitioner

Date:

Type or Print Name

Signature of Petitioner

☐ Add Additional Signature Lines for Additional Petitioners

☐ Signature of Petitioners Follows Last Attachment

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE: TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.: E-MAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name):		FOR COURT USE ONLY
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:		
PETITION OF (name of each petitioner): FOR CHANGE OF NAME		
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE—CHANGE OF NAME TO CONFORM TO GENDER IDENTITY		CASE NUMBER:

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

- Petitioner (name):
 for a decree changing name as follows:

<u>Present name</u>		<u>Proposed name</u>
a.	to	
b.	to	
c.	to	
d.	to	
- THE COURT ORDERS that any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection **within six weeks of the date this order is issued**. If no written objection is timely filed, the court will grant the petition without a hearing.
- A hearing date may be set only if an objection is timely filed and shows good cause for opposing the name change. Objections based solely on concerns that the proposed change is not the person's actual gender identity or gender assigned at birth do not constitute good cause. (See Code Civ. Proc., § 1277.5(c).)

NOTE: When a petition has been filed to change the name of a minor to conform to gender identity and the petition does not include the signatures of both living parents, the petition and this order to show cause must be served on the parent who did not sign the petition, under Code of Civil Procedure section 413.10, 414.10, or 415.40, within 30 days from the date on which the order is made by the court.

Date:

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: TELEPHONE NO.: EMAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name):	STATE BAR NUMBER: STATE: ZIP CODE: FAX NO.:	DRAFT 2026-02-06 Not approved by the Judicial Council
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:		
PETITION OF (name of each petitioner): FOR CHANGE OF NAME		
DECREE CHANGING NAME		CASE NUMBER:
If the petitioner is a participant in Safe at Home (the Secretary of State's address confidentiality program under Government Code section 6205 et seq.), attach <i>Confidential Cover Sheet—Name Change Proceeding Under Address Confidentiality Program (Safe at Home)</i> (form NC-400) to this form and do not include the petitioner's new legal name on this form . Instead, in the "New legal name" column in item 3, indicate that the new name is confidential and is on file with the Secretary of State under the provisions of the address confidentiality program.		

1. The petition was considered:
- a. ☐ at the hearing on (date): _____ in Courtroom: _____ of the above-entitled court.
- b. ☐ without hearing.

THE COURT FINDS

2. a. All notices required by law have been given.
- b. Each person whose name is to be changed identified in item 3 below
☐ is not ☐ is required to register as a sex offender under **Penal Code** section 290.
 This determination was made (check one): ☐ by using CLETS/CJIS ☐ based on information provided to the clerk of the court by a local law enforcement agency.
- c. ☐ No objections to the proposed change of name were made.
- d. ☐ Objections to the proposed change of name were made by (name): _____
- e. It appears to the satisfaction of the court that all the allegations in the petition are true and sufficient and that the petition should be granted.
- f. ☐ Other findings (if any): _____

THE COURT ORDERS

3. The name of _____ **Legal name when petition was filed** _____ **New legal name**
- a. _____ is changed to _____
- b. _____ is changed to _____
- c. _____ is changed to _____
- d. _____ is changed to _____
- ☐ Additional name changes are listed on Attachment 3.

Date: _____

Judicial Officer
☐ Signature of Judicial Officer follows last attachment

- a. Date: _____ Time: _____ Dept.: _____ Room: _____

- (To appear remotely, check in advance of the hearing for information about how to do so on the court's website. To find your court's website, go to www.courts.ca.gov/find-my-court.htm.)*

Date: _____ Clerk, by _____, Deputy

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE: TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.: EMAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name):	FOR COURT USE ONLY DRAFT 2026-03-26 Not approved by the Judicial Council
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:	
PETITION OF (name of each petitioner):	
PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO CONFORM TO GENDER IDENTITY	CASE NUMBER:
Instructions for completing this form: Before you complete this form, read <i>Instructions for Filing a Petition for Change of Name to Conform to Gender Identity</i> (form NC-200-INFO). Do not use this form to change a name as part of a petition to also recognize a change of gender and sex identifier. For those petitions, use form NC-300 for an adult or form NC-500 for a minor.	

1. The petitioner is (current legal name):

2. The person whose name is proposed to be changed (check a or b):
 - a. ☐ resides in this county.
 - b. ☐ does not live in California and (check 1 or 2):
 - (1) ☐ wants a name change on a marriage license, and was married in this county.
 - (2) ☐ wants a name change on their or their child's birth certificate, which was issued in this county.

3. If this petition requests the change of name of any person under 18 years of age, this request is being made by
 - a. ☐ two parents.
 - b. ☐ one parent.
 - c. ☐ near relative (relationship):
 - d. ☐ guardian.
 - e. ☐ attorney for an individual under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.
 - f. ☐ other (specify):

4. ☐ Petitioner requests that the court issue an order directing all interested persons to appear or file objections to show cause why this petition for change of name of the person identified in item 5a should not be granted. (Check the box for this item only if the petition is being filed on behalf of a minor and the petition does not include the signatures of all of the minor's living parents.)

5. Petitioner applies for a decree to change the name of the following person to conform to their gender identity (if the petitioner is a guardian of a minor, a declaration of guardian (form NC-210G) must also be completed and attached):
 - a. ☐ Self ☐ Another person
 - (1) Current legal name (specify):
 - (2) Proposed legal name (specify):
 - (3) Born on (date of birth):
and presently ☐ under 18 years of age ☐ 18 years of age or older
 - (4) Born at (place of birth):
 - (5) Sex as stated on birth certificate (check one; if your birth certificate reflects a nonbinary (X) gender marker, check the box shown on the original birth certificate for the purpose of a federal database search): ☐ Male ☐ Female
 - (6) Current residence address (street):
City: County: State: Zip:



CONFIDENTIAL

NC-200

PETITION OF *(name of each petitioner):*

CASE NUMBER:

5. Petitioner applies for a decree to change the name of the following person to conform to their gender identity:

b. Relationship of the petitioner to the person whose name will be changed:

(1) ☐ Self

(4) ☐ Guardian ad litem or attorney for minor appointed by juvenile court

(2) ☐ Parent

(5) ☐ Near relative *(indicate relationship):*

(3) ☐ Guardian

(6) ☐ Other *(specify):*

c. If the person whose name will be changed is under 18 years of age, provide the names and addresses, if known, of the following persons:

(1) Parent *(name):* _____ *(address):* _____

(2) Parent *(name):* _____ *(address):* _____

(3) *(Only if neither parent is living)* Near relatives *(names, relationships, and addresses):*

d. Number of pages attached *(specify number):*

(If the person whose name will be changed is 18 years of age or older, that person must sign the following declaration.)

DECLARATION

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that *(check one)*: ☐ I am not ☐ I am under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (in state prison or on parole) or in county jail **and** *(check one)*: ☐ I am not ☐ I am required to register as a sex offender under Penal Code section 290.

Date: _____

Type or Print Name of Person Whose Name Is to Be Changed
(Use Current Legal Name)

Signature of Person Whose Name Is to Be Changed

(Each petitioner must sign this petition in the space provided below or, if additional pages are attached, at the end of the last attachment. If the petitioner is the person whose name is to be changed, use the petitioner's current legal name.) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information in the foregoing petition is true and correct.

Date: _____

Type or Print Name

Signature of Petitioner

Date: _____

Type or Print Name

Signature of Petitioner

☐ Add additional signature lines for additional petitioners

☐ Signature of petitioners follows last attachment

(If petitioner is represented by an attorney, the attorney's signature follows):

Date: _____

Type or Print Name

Signature of Attorney

DRAFT 2026-02-06 Not approved by the Judicial Council

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILING A PETITION FOR CHANGE
OF NAME TO CONFORM TO GENDER IDENTITY**

NC-200-INFO

1. Where to File

- a. California residents: The petition for change of name must be filed in the superior court of the county where the person whose name is to be changed is a resident.
- b. Non-California residents: If the person whose name is to be changed is also requesting an order for the issuance of a new California marriage license and certificate, a new California birth certificate for the person whose name is to be changed, or a new California birth certificate for a minor or adult child of the person whose name is to be changed, the petition for change of name must be filed in the superior court of the county where the marriage took place, or where the birth certificate was issued.

2. Whose Name May Be Changed

The petition may be used to change your own name and, under certain circumstances, the names of others (e.g., children under 18 years of age).

3. What Forms Are Required

If you are requesting a change of name to conform to gender identity, prepare an original and two copies of each of the following documents:

- a. *Petition for Change of Name to Conform to Gender Identity* (form NC-200)
- b. *Order to Show Cause—Change of Name to Conform to Gender Identity* (form NC-225), if applicable
- c. *Decree Changing Name (200 Series)* (form NC-230, or, for guardians, form NC-230G)
- d. *Civil Case Cover Sheet* (form CM-010)

In addition, a guardian must prepare and attach *Supplemental Attachment to Petition for Change of Name to Conform to Gender Identity (Declaration of Guardian)* (form NC-210G).

Local courts may require additional local forms. Check with the court to determine if additional forms are required.

If you are requesting a change of name unrelated to gender identity, please read *Instructions for Filing a Petition for Change of Name* (form NC-100-INFO) instead.

If you are requesting a change of name and recognition of a change of gender and sex identifier at the same time, read:

- *Instructions for Filing Petition for Recognition of Adult's Change of Gender and Sex Identifier, Name Change, and Issuance of New Certificates* (form NC-300-INFO) if you are an adult petitioning on your own behalf.
- *Instructions for Filing Petition for Recognition of Minor's Change of Gender and Sex Identifier* (form NC-500-INFO) if you are petitioning on behalf of a minor.

4. Filing and Filing Fee

If you are filing in person or by mail, file the original versions (not copies) of the forms listed above with the clerk of the court and obtain two file-endorsed copies of the petition. You will be charged a filing fee unless you qualify for a fee waiver. (If you want to apply for a fee waiver, read *Request to Waive Court Fees* (form FW-001) and *Information Sheet on Waiver of Court Fees and Costs* (form FW-001-INFO).)

5. Requesting a Court Hearing Date and Obtaining the Order to Show Cause

If the petition is being filed on behalf of a minor and the petition does not include the signatures of all of the minor's living parents, fill out *Order to Show Cause—Change of Name to Conform to Gender Identity* (form NC-225) and take the completed form to the clerk's office. The clerk will obtain the judicial officer's signature, file the original, and give you a copy. A hearing will not be set unless objections are timely filed and the objections show good cause.

6. Publishing the Order to Show Cause

If you are seeking a change of name to conform to gender identity, you **do not have to publish** an order to show cause if one is required.

7. Name Change for Children

- a. If you are a petitioning parent or any other adult requesting the name change for a child to conform to that child's gender identity and a living parent does not join in the petition for the name change, you must have a copy of the petition and the *Order to Show Cause* served on a nonconsenting parent. Service must be made **within 4 weeks of the date the order is made by the court**. Service must be in person or, if out of state, by mail, in the manner described in Code of Civil Procedure section 413.10, 414.10, 415.10, or 415.40.
- b. If a nonconsenting parent resides in California, the order must be personally served on a nonconsenting parent. You, as the person filing this case, cannot personally serve this document.



7. c. If a nonconsenting parent resides outside California, that parent may be served by sending a copy of the order by first-class mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested.

If you have served a parent, file a copy of the completed *Proof of Service of Order to Show Cause (Change of Name to Conform to Gender Identity)* (form NC-221/NC-321/NC-521) with the court before the hearing. If the child has more than two legal parents, please attach form MC-025 to the petition and explain.

8. Name Change for Person in Jail or Prison or on Parole

If you are a person in county jail, or under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (in state prison, or on parole) you may file a petition to change your name, but must serve the petition on a government agency.

- If in county jail, you must provide a copy of the petition to the county sheriff's department. Check with the department as to how that should be done.
- If in state prison, you must provide a copy of the petition to the warden. Check with the warden's office as to how that should be done.
- If on parole, you must provide a copy of the petition to the regional parole administrator. Check with the administrator's office as to how that should be done.

After you have provided a copy to the sheriff, warden, or regional parole administrator, file a copy of the completed *Proof of Service By Mail* (form POS-030) with the court. Note that the declaration on form NC-200 as to whether the petitioner is in jail or under jurisdiction of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is only for purposes of determining if service of the petition is required.

9. Court Hearing

If you filed a petition for name change to conform to gender identity, the order must generally be granted without a hearing (see Code of Civil Procedure section 1279.5 for additional information regarding persons who are required to register as a sex offender). However, if (1) the petition is being filed on behalf of a minor and the petition does not include the signatures of all of the minor's living parents, and (2) timely objections were filed, the court may set a hearing date after receiving the objections. If it does, you will be sent a notice of the hearing date. Check with the court after the deadline for filing objections to see if a hearing date has been set. If there are no objections, the court will grant the petition and sign the decree without a hearing.

If no written objection is filed at least two court days before the scheduled hearing, the court may grant the petition and sign the decree without a hearing. Check with the court to find out if a hearing will be held. If there is a hearing, bring copies of all documents to the hearing. If the judge grants the petition, the judge will sign the original decree.

10. Requesting Accommodations for Disability

If you have a disability and need an accommodation to help you access your court hearing, you can use *Disability Accommodation Request* (form MC-410) to make your request. You can also ask the court's ADA Coordinator in your court for help. For more information, see *How to Request a Disability Accommodation for Court* (form MC-410-INFO).

11. Issuance of New Birth Certificate

If you were born in California and want to amend a birth certificate to show the name change, you should contact the following office:

California Department of Public Health
Vital Records - MS 5103
P.O. Box 997410
Sacramento, CA 95899-7410

Phone: 916-445-2684
Website: www.cdph.ca.gov

Local courts may supplement these instructions. Check with the court to determine whether supplemental information is available. For instance, the court may provide you with additional written information identifying the department that handles name change petitions and the times when petitions are heard.

PETITION OF <i>(Name of petitioner or petitioners):</i> FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO CONFORM TO GENDER IDENTITY	CASE NUMBER:
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DRAFT
2026-02-06
 Not approved by
 the Judicial Council

DECLARATION OF GUARDIAN
Supplemental Attachment to *Petition for Change of Name to*
***Conform to Gender Identity* (form NC-200)**

Attachment ____ of ____

1. a. Petitioner *(name)*:
- b. Petitioner's address *(street, city, county, and zip code)*:

- c. Petitioner is the guardian of the following minor whose name is to be changed:
 - (1) Name *(current legal name of child)*:
 - (2) Address *(street, city, county, and zip code)*:

- d. Petitioner was appointed guardian of the minor identified in item 1c by *(specify)*:
 - (1) Superior Court of California, County of *(name)*:
 - (2) Department *(check one)*: ☐ Juvenile ☐ Probate
 - (3) Case number *(specify)*:
 - (4) Date of appointment *(specify)*:

- e. The grandparents of the minor whose name is to be changed are *(provide names and addresses, if known)*:
 - (1) Grandparent's Name: _____ (address): _____
 - (2) Grandparent's Name: _____ (address): _____
 - (3) Grandparent's Name: _____ (address): _____
 - (4) Grandparent's Name: _____ (address): _____

- f. The minor identified in item 1c is likely to remain under the guardian's care until the minor reaches the age of majority because *(explain)*:

- ☐ Continued *(if you need additional space, check the box, prepare an Attachment 1f, and attach it to this declaration)*.
- g. The minor identified in item 1c is not likely to be returned to the custody of the minor's parents because *(explain)*:

- ☐ Continued *(if you need additional space, check the box, prepare an Attachment 1g, and attach it to this declaration)*.
- h. Other relevant information about the guardianship and why the proposed name change is in the best interest of the minor *(specify)*:

☐ Continued *(if you need additional space, check the box, prepare an Attachment 1h, and attach it to this declaration)*.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information in the foregoing declaration is true and correct.

Date: _____

 Type or Print Name
 Guardian of *(current legal name of minor)*:



 Signature of Petitioner

CONFIDENTIAL

NC-221/NC-321/NC-521

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE: TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.: EMAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name):		DRAFT 2025-11-14 Not approved by the Judicial Council
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:		
PETITION OF (name of each petitioner): FOR CHANGE OF NAME OR GENDER TO CONFORM TO GENDER IDENTITY		
PROOF OF SERVICE OF ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE BY ☐ PERSONAL DELIVERY ☐ MAILING (OUTSIDE CALIFORNIA ONLY)		
		CASE NUMBER:

1. At the time of mailing or personal delivery, I was at least 18 years of age and **not a party** to this proceeding.

2. My residence or business address is (specify):

3. I personally delivered or mailed a copy of the (title of document):

as follows (complete either a or b):

a. ☐ **Personal delivery.** I personally delivered a copy to the person served as follows:

(1) Name of person served:

(2) Address where delivered:

(3) Date delivered:

(4) Time delivered:

b. ☐ **Mail.** I am a resident of or employed in the county where the mailing occurred.

(1) I enclosed a copy in an envelope and mailed the sealed envelope to the person served by first-class mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, to the address outside of California listed below.

(2) The envelope was addressed and mailed as follows:

(a) Name of person served:

(b) Address on envelope:

(c) Date of mailing:

(d) Place of mailing (city and state):

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date:

Type or Print Name of Declarant

Signature of Declarant

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: TELEPHONE NO.: EMAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name):	STATE BAR NUMBER: STATE: ZIP CODE: FAX NO.:	<i>FOR COURT USE ONLY</i> DRAFT 2026-01-20 Not approved by the Judicial Council
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:		CASE NUMBER:
PETITION OF (name of each petitioner): FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO CONFORM TO GENDER IDENTITY ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE—CHANGE OF NAME TO CONFORM TO GENDER IDENTITY		

NOTE: This form should be used only if the petition is being filed on behalf of a minor and the petition does not include the signatures of all of the minor's living parents. The petition and this order to show cause must be served on any parent who did not sign the petition, under Code of Civil Procedure section 413.10, 414.10, 415.10, or 415.40, within 4 weeks from the date on which the order is made by the court.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

1. Petitioner (name):
for a decree changing name as follows:

Current legal name

to

Proposed legal name
2. THE COURT ORDERS that any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection **within six weeks of the date this order is issued**. If no written objection is timely filed, the court will grant the petition without a hearing after the completion of the six weeks, except as provided in Code of Civil Procedure section 1279.5.
3. A hearing date may be set only if an objection is timely filed and shows good cause for opposing the name change. Objections based solely on concerns that the proposed change is not the person's actual gender identity or gender assigned at birth do not constitute good cause. (See Code Civ. Proc., § 1277.5(b).)

Date:

Judicial Officer

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE: TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.: EMAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name):	DRAFT 2026-01-20 Not approved by the Judicial Council
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:	
PETITION OF (name of each petitioner): FOR CHANGE OF NAME (200 SERIES)	
DECREE CHANGING NAME (200 SERIES)	
CASE NUMBER:	

1. The petition was considered:
- a. ☐ at the hearing on (date): _____ in Courtroom: _____ of the above-entitled court.
- b. ☐ without hearing.

THE COURT FINDS

2. a. All notices required by law have been given.
- b. Each person whose name is to be changed identified in item 3 below
☐ is not ☐ is required to register as a sex offender under section 290 of the Penal Code.
 This determination was made (check one): ☐ by using CLETS/CJIS ☐ based on information provided to the clerk of the court by a local law enforcement agency.
- c. ☐ No objections to the proposed change of name were made.
- d. ☐ Objections to the proposed change of name were made by (name): _____
- e. It appears to the satisfaction of the court that all the allegations in the petition are true and sufficient and that the petition should be granted.
- f. ☐ Other findings (if any): _____

THE COURT ORDERS

3. The name of Legal name when petition was filed New legal name
 _____ is changed to _____

Date: _____

 Judicial Officer

☐ Signature of Judicial Officer follows last attachment

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE: TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.: EMAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name):	DRAFT 2026-02-06 Not approved by the Judicial Council	
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:		
PETITION OF <i>(name of each petitioner)</i> : FOR CHANGE OF NAME (200 SERIES) (BY GUARDIAN)		
DECREE CHANGING NAME OF MINOR (200 SERIES) (BY GUARDIAN)		CASE NUMBER:

1. The petition was duly considered:
- a. ☐ at the hearing on *(date)*: _____ in Courtroom: _____ of the above-entitled court.
- b. ☐ without hearing.

THE COURT FINDS

2. a. All notices required by law have been given.
- b. The person whose name is to be changed *(specify legal name when petition was filed)*: _____ is a minor.
- c. The petition for change of name was filed on behalf of the minor by the minor's guardian *(name)*: _____
- d. The minor whose name is to be changed is likely to remain in the guardian's care until the age of majority.
- e. The minor whose name is to be changed is not likely to be returned to the custody of the minor's parents.
- f. The minor whose name is to be changed
☐ is not ☐ is required to register as a sex offender under section 290 of the Penal Code.
 This determination was made *(check one)*: ☐ by using CLETS/CJIS ☐ based on information provided to the clerk of the court by a local law enforcement agency.
- g. ☐ No objections to the proposed change of name were made.
- h. ☐ Objections to the proposed change of name were made by *(name)*: _____
- i. It appears to the satisfaction of the court that all the allegations in the petition are true and sufficient, that the proposed name change is in the best interest of the minor, and that the petition should be granted.
- j. ☐ Other findings *(if any)*: _____

THE COURT ORDERS

3. The name of *(specify legal name when petition was filed)*: _____
 is changed to *(new legal name)*: _____

Date: _____

 Judicial Officer
☐ Signature of Judicial Officer follows last attachment

CONFIDENTIAL

NC-250/NC-350/NC-550

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: TELEPHONE NO.: EMAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name):		STATE BAR NUMBER: STATE: ZIP CODE: FAX NO.:	FOR COURT USE ONLY DRAFT 2025-11-19 Not approved by the Judicial Council
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:			
PETITION OF (name):			
NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION ☐ Form NC-200 ☐ Form NC-300 ☐ Form NC-500		CASE NUMBER:	

1. Objections have been filed to petitioner's request for (check all that apply):

- a. ☐ a decree changing name to conform to gender.
- b. ☐ an order for the issuance of a new birth certificate reflecting the change of petitioner's gender.
- c. ☐ an order for the issuance of a new marriage license and certificate reflecting the change in designation of the petitioner to bride, groom, or neither bride nor groom.
- d. ☐ an order for the issuance of a new birth certificate for petitioner's child reflecting the change of petitioner's gender.

2. A hearing will take place at the time and place below, at which time the court may consider the objections that have been filed.

a.	Date:	Time:	Dept.:	Room:
----	-------	-------	--------	-------

b. The address of the court is

- ☐ same as noted above.
- ☐ other (specify):

(To appear remotely, check in advance of the hearing for information about how to do so on the court's website. To find your court's website, go to courts.ca.gov/find-my-court.)

Date: _____ Clerk, by _____, Deputy

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE: TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.: EMAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name):	FOR COURT USE ONLY DRAFT 2026-03-26 Not approved by the Judicial Council
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:	
PETITION OF (name):	
PETITION FOR RECOGNITION OF ADULT'S CHANGE OF GENDER AND SEX IDENTIFIER ☐ AND CHANGE OF NAME ☐ AND ISSUANCE OF NEW CERTIFICATES	CASE NUMBER:

Before you complete this petition, read *Instructions for Filing Petition for Recognition of Adult's Change of Gender and Sex Identifier, Name Change, and Issuance of New Certificates* (form NC-300-INFO).

Note: You do not need to file this petition or obtain a court order in order to obtain a new California birth certificate for you or your child reflecting a change of your gender or a new California marriage license and certificate reflecting a change of gender. You may use an administrative process instead; see Health and Safety Code section 103426.

1. Petitioner (**current legal** name): _____ is 18 years old or older and requests an order recognizing the change of petitioner's gender and sex identifier to
 - a. ☐ female.
 - b. ☐ male.
 - c. ☐ nonbinary.

2. Petitioner is a California resident or seeks a change to a California birth certificate or marriage license and certificate.

3. ☐ Petitioner has already obtained a decree of name change that petitioner wants reflected on the certificates checked in item 4. Petitioner attaches a certified copy of the decree of name change to this petition.
 (If this item is checked, **indicate the request in item 4 and skip item 5.**)

4. ☐ **Issuance of new California certificate**
 - a. ☐ Petitioner requests an order for the issuance of a new birth certificate for petitioner reflecting the change of gender
☐ and change of name.
 - b. ☐ Petitioner requests an order for the issuance of a new birth certificate for petitioner's child reflecting petitioner's change of gender
☐ and change of name.
 (Attach *Birth Certificate for Child of Petitioner—Attachment* (form NC-311).)
 - c. ☐ Petitioner requests an order for the issuance of a new marriage license and certificate with a change of designation of the person as bride, groom, or having neither box checked
☐ and change of name.
 (Attach *Marriage License and Certificate—Attachment* (form NC-312).)



PETITION OF (name):	CASE NUMBER:
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5. ☐ Petitioner applies for a decree to change their name to conform to their gender identity:
- a. The petitioner's information is included below:
- (1) Current legal name (specify):
 - (2) Proposed legal name (specify):
 - (3) Born on (date of birth):
and presently 18 years of age or older
 - (4) Born at (place of birth):
 - (5) Sex as stated on birth certificate (check one; if your birth certificate reflects a nonbinary (X) gender marker, check the box shown on the original birth certificate for the purpose of a federal database search): ☐ Male ☐ Female
 - (6) Current residence address (street):
City: County: State: Zip:
- b. This is the right court for the petition to change name because petitioner (check (1) or (2)):
- (1) ☐ resides in this county.
 - (2) ☐ does not reside in California and (check one):
 - (i) ☐ wants a name change on their or their child's birth certificate, which was issued in this county.
 - (ii) ☐ wants a name change on a marriage license, and was married in this county.
6. Number of pages attached (specify number): _____

**All petitioners must sign all items on this page.
Petitioners requesting a change of name (item 5) must additionally sign on page 3.**

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the request for a change in gender and sex identifier to (check one): ☐ female ☐ male ☐ nonbinary is to conform my legal gender and sex identifier to my gender identity and is not for any fraudulent purpose.

Date: _____

Type or Print Name of Petitioner (Use Current Legal Name)

Signature of Petitioner

(Petitioner must sign this petition in the space provided below or, if additional pages are attached, at the end of the last attachment.) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information in the foregoing petition is true and correct.

Date: _____

Type or Print Name of Petitioner (Use Current Legal Name)

Signature of Petitioner

(If petitioner is represented by an attorney, the attorney's signature follows:)

Date: _____

Type or Print Name of Petitioner's Attorney

Signature of Attorney



PETITION OF (name):

CASE NUMBER:

Complete the following declaration and sign below only if requesting a change of name (item 5).**DECLARATION**

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that (check one): ☐ I am not ☐ I am under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (in state prison or on parole) or in county jail **and** (check one): ☐ I am not ☐ I am required to register as a sex offender under Penal Code section 290.

Date: _____

Type or Print Name of Petitioner (Use Current Legal Name)

Signature of Petitioner

DRAFT

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILING PETITION FOR RECOGNITION OF **ADULT'S** CHANGE OF GENDER AND SEX IDENTIFIER, NAME CHANGE, AND ISSUANCE OF NEW CERTIFICATES

Note: You do not need to file this petition or obtain a court order in order to obtain a new California birth certificate for you or your child reflecting a change of gender or a new California marriage license and certificate reflecting a change of gender. See Health and Safety Code section 103426. You may make the request directly to the State Registrar at the California Department of Public Health or, for a confidential marriage license and certificate, the county clerk of the county that issued the confidential marriage license. (See contact information on page 2.)

1. How to Make Request

A petition for recognition of change of gender and sex identifier, either on its own or combined with a request for a name change, a new birth certificate for petitioner, a new birth certificate for petitioner's child or children, and a new marriage license and certificate must be filed on form NC-300. This form may only be used by individuals 18 years old or older. (Minors must use form NC-500.)

2. Where to File

The petition to recognize a change of gender and sex identifier may be filed in the superior court of any county in California, but if the petition **includes a request to change petitioner's name**, it must be filed:

- a. If petitioner is a California resident, in the superior court where petitioner presently resides, or
- b. If petitioner is not a California resident, in the superior court in the county where petitioner's or petitioner's child's birth certificate was issued or where petitioner's marriage was entered into.

3. What Forms Are Required

You will need to have an original and a copy of each of the following documents:

- a. *Petition for Recognition of **Adult's** Change of Gender and Sex Identifier, Name Change, and Issuance of New Certificates* (form NC-300)
- b. *Order Recognizing **Adult's** Change of Gender and Sex Identifier, for Name Change, and for Issuance of New Certificates* (form NC-330)
- c. If requesting order for new birth certificate for child:
Birth Certificate for Child of Petitioner—Attachment (form NC-311)
- d. If requesting order for new marriage license and certificate:
Marriage License and Certificate—Attachment (form NC-312) and, if form NC-312 is not signed by the other spouse, *Order to Show Cause—Issuance of New Marriage License and Certificate* (form NC-325)
- e. *Civil Case Cover Sheet* (form CM-010)

Local courts may require additional local forms. Check with the court to determine if additional forms are required.

4. Filing With Court

Prepare an original *Civil Case Cover Sheet* (form CM-010). Take the completed petition, with any required attachments and the proposed orders with the *Civil Case Cover Sheet*, along with a copy of each document, to the clerk of the court. Obtain a filed-endorsed copy (stamped by the clerk) of the petition and ask that any required orders to show cause be issued.

A filing fee will be charged unless you qualify for a fee waiver. (If you want to apply for a fee waiver, see *Request to Waive Court Fees* (form FW-001) and *Information Sheet on Waiver of Superior Court Fees and Costs* (form FW-001-INFO).)

5. Service on Spouse

If seeking a change to your marriage license and certificate, and the spouse sharing that marriage license has not signed the form (and is alive and capable of signing it), you must serve the *Order to Show Cause—Issuance of New Marriage License and Certificate* (form NC-325) that has been issued by the court, along with a copy of the petition, on that spouse within four weeks from the date on which the order is made by the court. It must be served in person or, if out of state, by mail, in the manner described in Code of Civil Procedure sections 413.10, 414.10, or 415.40. Service must be made by someone other than you, and you must have the server complete a proof of service and file it with the court (see *Proof of Service of Order to Show Cause* (form NC-221/NC-321/NC-521)).



6. Service on Government Agency—Name Change for Person in Jail or Prison or on Parole

If you are in county jail or under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (in state prison, or on parole), a petition to change your name—including one on form NC-300—must be served on a government agency.

- If in county jail, you must provide a copy of the petition to the county sheriff's department.
- If in state prison, you must provide a copy of the petition to the warden.
- If on parole, you must provide a copy of the petition to the regional parole administrator.

Check with each office as to how to serve. After you have provided a copy to the sheriff, warden, or regional parole administrator, file a copy of the completed *Proof of Service By First-Class Mail—Civil* (form POS-030) with the court.

Note that the declaration on form NC-300 as to whether the petitioner is in jail or under jurisdiction of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is only for purposes of determining if service of the petition is required.

7. Court Hearings

A hearing date will be set if a nonsigning spouse, as described in item 5, files a timely objection. If there is a hearing, you will be sent a notice by the court. Bring copies of all documents to the hearing. If the judicial officer grants the petition, the judicial officer will sign *Order Recognizing Adult's Change of Gender and Sex Identifier, for Name Change, and for Issuance of New Certificates* (form NC-330). If no timely objections are filed, the court will grant the petition and sign the order without a hearing.

8. Requesting Accommodations for Disability

If you have a disability and need an accommodation to help you access your court hearing, you can use *Disability Accommodation Request* (form MC-410) to make your request. You can also ask the court's ADA Coordinator in your court for help. For more information, see *How to Request a Disability Accommodation for Court* (form MC-410-INFO).

9. Issuance of New Birth Certificate

If you were born in California, or if your children were, to obtain a new birth certificate for you or them reflecting your change of gender, file a certified copy of the order with the State Registrar and pay the applicable fees. You may write or contact the State Registrar at:

California Department of Public Health
Vital Records – MS 5103
P.O. Box 997410
Sacramento, CA 95899-7410

Phone: 916-445-2684
Website: www.cdph.ca.gov

10. Issuance of New Marriage License and Certificate

If you were married in California, to obtain a new marriage license and certificate reflecting your change of gender with a change in your designation to bride, groom, or neither, file a certified copy of the order, and pay the applicable fees, as follows:

- If the original marriage license and certificate was **confidential**, then file with the county clerk in the county where the confidential marriage license and certificate was issued. (A confidential marriage is a marriage that is available to two unmarried adults who have been living together as spouses. Confidential marriages do not require witnesses to attend a ceremony or sign the marriage license.)
- If the original marriage license and certificate was **not** confidential, then file with the State Registrar, whose contact information is given in item 9 above.

11. Self-Help Guide

For more information, please visit the California Courts Self-Help Guide on gender recognition, available at selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/gender-recognition-order-index.

Local courts may supplement these instructions. Check with the court to determine whether supplemental information is available. For instance, the court may provide you with additional written information identifying the department that handles these petitions, the times when petitions are heard if hearings are required, and whether remote appearances by video or telephone are available.

CONFIDENTIAL

NC-311

PETITION OF (name of petitioner):

CASE NUMBER:

BIRTH CERTIFICATE FOR CHILD OF PETITIONER—ATTACHMENT**Attachment to *Petition for Recognition of Adult's Change of Gender and Sex Identifier, Name Change, and Issuance of New Certificates* (form NC-300)**

Petitioner must complete and attach this form to form NC-300 if asking the court to order issuance of a new birth certificate of a minor or adult child that reflects petitioner's change in gender, or change in both gender and name. A separate form is required for each child.

1. This is an attachment to a request for an order for the issuance of a new birth certificate for a minor or adult child to reflect petitioner's (check all that apply):
 - a. ☐ change of gender and sex identifier.
 - b. ☐ change of name.
 - (1) ☐ Petitioner is seeking a decree changing their name as part of this petition.
 - (2) ☐ Petitioner has already obtained a decree for change of name; a certified copy of the decree is attached to the petition for recognition of change of gender and sex identifier.

2. Information about petitioner's minor or adult child

- a. Name of child:
- b. Date of birth:
- c. City and county of birth:
- d. Petitioner's child is ☐ a minor (under 18 years of age) ☐ an adult (18 years of age or older)

3. ☐ Child whose birth certificate will be changed is an adult.

If petitioner's child is 18 years of age or older, this request must be signed by the adult child whose birth certificate would be changed by granting this petition, unless the adult child is deceased or incapable of providing a signature. (Check applicable item below.)

- a. ☐ Petitioner's adult child agrees to the issuance of a new birth certificate and provides a signature below.

Date:

Type or Print Name_____
Signature of Petitioner's Adult Child

- b. ☐ Petitioner's adult child is deceased. Date of death:
- c. ☐ Petitioner's adult child is incapable of providing a signature for the following reason:
Explain:

Date:

Type or Print Name of Petitioner (Use Current Legal Name)_____
Signature of Petitioner

CONFIDENTIAL

NC-312

PETITION OF (name of petitioner):

CASE NUMBER:

MARRIAGE LICENSE AND CERTIFICATE—ATTACHMENT**Attachment to Petition for Recognition of Adult's Change of Gender and Sex Identifier, Name Change, and Issuance of New Certificates (form NC-300)**

Petitioner must complete and attach this form to form NC-300 if asking the court to order issuance of a new marriage license and certificate or a new confidential marriage license and certificate that reflect petitioner's change in gender, or change in both gender and name. For a definition of confidential marriage, see item 10 on *Instructions for Filing Petition for Recognition of Adult's Change of Gender and Sex Identifier, Name Change, and Issuance of New Certificates* (form NC-300-INFO).

1. Request to issue a new marriage license and certificate

This is an attachment to a request for an order for the issuance of a new marriage license and certificate or new confidential marriage license and certificate to reflect (check all that apply):

- a. ☐ recognition of petitioner's change of gender and sex identifier by changing petitioner's designation to:
- ☐ bride ☐ groom ☐ neither bride nor groom.
- b. ☐ change of name:
- (1) ☐ Petitioner is seeking a decree changing their name as part of this petition.
- (2) ☐ Petitioner has already obtained a decree for change of name; a certified copy of the decree to the petition for recognition of change of gender and sex identifier is attached.

2. Information about original marriage license and certificate

- a. Original date of issuance:
- b. County of issuance:
- c. Petitioner name on original marriage license and certificate:
- d. Petitioner date of birth:
- e. Spouse name on original marriage license and certificate:
- f. Spouse date of birth:
- g. The original marriage license and certificate are: ☐ not confidential ☐ confidential.

3. Spouse who shares petitioner's marriage license and certificate

To be granted without further notice required, this request must be signed by the spouse sharing the original marriage license and certificate, unless that person is deceased or incapable of providing a signature. (One item below must be checked.)

- a. ☐ The spouse who shares petitioner's original marriage license and certificate agrees to the issuance of a new marriage license and certificate with petitioner's new designation. (Sign below.)

Date: _____

Type or Print Name_____
Signature of Spouse Listed on the Original Marriage
License and Certificate

- b. ☐ The spouse is deceased. Date of death: _____
- c. ☐ The spouse is incapable of providing a signature for the following reason (explain): _____

- d. ☐ (Check this item if spouse is living and capable of signing but has not.) Petitioner requests that the court issue an order directing the spouse who shares petitioner's original marriage license and certificate to file written objections to show cause why the requested changes should not be made.

Date: _____

Type or Print Name of Petitioner (Use Current Legal Name)_____
Signature of Petitioner

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: TELEPHONE NO.: EMAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name):		STATE BAR NUMBER: STATE: ZIP CODE: FAX NO.:	FOR COURT USE ONLY DRAFT 2026-02-09 Not approved by the Judicial Council
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:			
PETITION OF (name of each petitioner): FOR RECOGNITION OF ADULT'S CHANGE OF GENDER AND SEX IDENTIFIER, NAME CHANGE, AND ISSUANCE OF NEW CERTIFICATES			
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE—ISSUANCE OF NEW MARRIAGE LICENSE AND CERTIFICATE			CASE NUMBER:

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

1. Petitioner (name): _____ filed a petition with this court for an order that a new ☐ marriage license and certificate ☐ confidential marriage license and certificate be prepared
 - a. changing petitioner's designation on the license and certificate to (check one):
 - ☐ bride
 - ☐ groom
 - ☐ neither bride nor groom
 - b. ☐ and changing name to (proposed legal name): _____
2. THE COURT ORDERS that any person objecting to issuance of a new marriage license and certificate with the changes described above must file a written objection that includes any reasons why the requested changes would be fraudulent, **within six weeks of the date this order is issued**. If no written objection showing good cause to oppose the changes to the marriage license and certificate is timely filed, the court will enter the order that the gender and sex identifier recognition is granted without a hearing **after the completion of the six weeks**.
3. A hearing date may be set only if an objection is timely filed and shows good cause for opposing the petition. Objections based solely on concerns that the proposed change is not the person's actual gender identity or gender assigned at birth do not constitute good cause. (See Code Civ. Proc., § 1277.5(b); Health & Saf. Code, § 103430(h).)

Date: _____

Judicial Officer

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE: TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.: EMAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name):	FOR COURT USE ONLY DRAFT 2026-02-09 Not approved by the Judicial Council
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:	
PETITION OF (name):	
ORDER RECOGNIZING ADULT'S CHANGE OF GENDER AND SEX IDENTIFIER ☐ AND FOR NAME CHANGE ☐ AND FOR ISSUANCE OF NEW CERTIFICATES	CASE NUMBER:

1. The petition was duly considered
- ☐ at the hearing on (date): _____ in Department: _____ of the above-entitled court.
☐ without hearing.

THE COURT FINDS

2. ☐ Petitioner is a California resident or seeks a change to a California birth certificate or marriage license and certificate.
☐ All notices required by law have been given.
☐ No objections to the petition were made.
☐ Objections to the petition were made by (name): _____
3. ☐ The petition included a **request for change of name** for the person described in item 10.
- a. The person whose name is to be changed
- ☐ is not ☐ is required to register as a sex offender under Penal Code section 290.
 This determination was made ☐ by using CLETS/CJIS ☐ based on information provided to the clerk of the court by a local law enforcement agency.
- b. ☐ A certified copy of a court decree changing petitioner's name was attached to the petition.
4. ☐ The petition included a **request to order a new birth certificate for one or more minor children of petitioner.**
5. ☐ The petition included a **request to order a new birth certificate for one or more adult children of petitioner**, and (check one):
- a. ☐ each request for a new birth certificate for an adult child on form NC-311 contains the signature of the adult child agreeing to the reissuance of their birth certificate.
- b. ☐ the court was satisfied that the following adult child or children who did not sign form NC-311 are either deceased or incapable of providing a signature:
- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Full Name: _____ | Date of Birth: _____ |
| Full Name: _____ | Date of Birth: _____ |
6. ☐ The petition included a **request for an order for the issuance of a new marriage certificate, for a marriage license and certificate issued on (date): _____**, with a change of designation of the petitioner as bride, groom, or having neither box checked and (check one):
- a. ☐ the spouse who shares the marriage certificate with the petitioner has agreed to the issuance of a new marriage license and certificate OR the court is satisfied that the spouse is deceased or incapable of providing a signature.



PETITION OF (name):	CASE NUMBER:
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6. ☐ the petition did not include the agreement of the spouse who shares the marriage license and certificate with the petitioner. An order directing the spouse to make known any objection to the changes requested on the marriage license and certificate or confidential marriage license and certificate by filing a written objection, which includes any reasons why the requested changes would be fraudulent, was issued and served.

7. ☐ The court is satisfied that all the allegations in the petition are true and sufficient and that the petition should be granted.

8. ☐ Other findings (if any):

THE COURT ORDERS

9. The gender and sex identifier of petitioner has been changed to ☐ female ☐ male ☐ nonbinary.

THE COURT FURTHER ORDERS

10. ☐ The name of (legal name when petition was filed):

a. ☐ is changed to (new legal name):

b. ☐ was previously changed by court decree.

11. ☐ A new birth certificate must be issued reflecting the change of gender and sex identifier described in item 9

☐ and change of name described in item 10.

If petitioner was born in California, a certified copy of this order shall be filed by the petitioner with the State Registrar. When the State Registrar receives a certified copy of this order and payment of the applicable fees, the State Registrar shall establish for the petitioner a new birth certificate reflecting the gender of the petitioner as it has been altered and any change of name specified in this order.

12. ☐ A new birth certificate for the following child or children of the petitioner must be issued reflecting petitioner's change of gender and sex identifier described in item 9

☐ and change of name described in item 10.

Full Name: _____	Date of Birth: _____
Full Name: _____	Date of Birth: _____
Full Name: _____	Date of Birth: _____
Full Name: _____	Date of Birth: _____

If petitioner's child or children were born in California, a certified copy of this order shall be filed by the petitioner with the State Registrar. When the State Registrar receives a certified copy of this order and payment of the applicable fees, the State Registrar shall establish for each child a new birth certificate reflecting the gender of the petitioner as it has been altered and any change of name specified in this order.

13. ☐ The marriage license and certificate for petitioner and (name of spouse):

issued on (date): _____ in (county): _____ must be reissued

with a change of designation of the petitioner to ☐ bride ☐ groom ☐ neither bride nor groom

☐ and change of name described in item 10.

If the original marriage license and certificate were **confidential** and issued within this state, a certified copy of this order shall be filed by the petitioner with the county clerk in the county where the confidential marriage license and certificate were issued. When the county clerk receives a certified copy of this order with an application and payment of applicable fees, the county clerk shall issue a confidential marriage license and certificate for the petitioner.

If the original marriage license and certificate were **not** confidential and issued within this state, a certified copy of this order shall be filed by the petitioner with the State Registrar. When the State Registrar receives a certified copy of this order with an application and payment of applicable fees, the State Registrar shall issue a marriage license and certificate for the petitioner.

14. ☐ Other orders:

Date: _____ _____
Judicial Officer

CONFIDENTIAL

NC-400

ATTORNEY (leave blank if no attorney) _____ STATE BAR NUMBER: _____ NAME: _____ FIRM NAME: _____ STREET ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____ TELEPHONE NO.: _____ FAX NO.: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ ATTORNEY FOR (name): [CONFIDENTIAL]	FOR COURT USE ONLY DRAFT 2026-01-21 Not approved by the Judicial Council
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF STREET ADDRESS: _____ MAILING ADDRESS: _____ CITY AND ZIP CODE: _____ BRANCH NAME: _____	
PETITION OF (name of each petitioner): [CONFIDENTIAL]	
CONFIDENTIAL COVER SHEET—NAME CHANGE PROCEEDING UNDER ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM (SAFE AT HOME)	CASE NUMBER: _____

Instructions for completing this form:

- Use this form if the petitioner is an active participant in Safe at Home (the Secretary of State's address confidentiality program under Government Code section 6205 et seq.) and is asking the court for a change of name to avoid (1) domestic violence, (2) stalking, (3) sexual assault, or (4) human trafficking.
- If you are the petitioner, do not file your *Petition for Change of Name* (form NC-100) until after Safe at Home has given you a letter confirming that you are an active participant in Safe at Home and that your intended change of name is on file with Safe at Home.
- This **Confidential Cover Sheet** must be **attached** to the first page of the petition and to any other documents filed in this **proceeding**.
- Read *Information Sheet for Name Change Proceedings Under Address Confidentiality Program (Safe at Home)* (form NC-400-INFO) for more information on how to ask the court for a change of name under Safe at Home.

Under Code of Civil Procedure section 1277(b), **the current legal name of the petitioner must be kept confidential by the court** and must not be published or posted in the court's calendars, indexes, or register of actions, or by any means or in any public forum.

This cover sheet is affixed to the following documents (check all that apply):

1. ☐ *Petition for Change of Name* (form NC-100)
2. ☐ *Attachment to Petition for Name Change* (form NC-110)
3. ☐ *Order to Show Cause—Change of Name* (form NC-120)
4. ☐ *Decree Changing Name* (form NC-130)
5. ☐ *Civil Case Cover Sheet* (form CM-010)
6. ☐ *Application to File Documents Under Seal in Name Change Proceeding Under Address Confidentiality Program (Safe at Home)* (form NC-410)
7. ☐ *Declaration in Support of Application to File Documents Under Seal in Name Change Proceedings Under Address Confidentiality Program (Safe at Home)* (form NC-420)
8. ☐ *Order on Application to File Documents Under Seal in Name Change Proceeding Under Address Confidentiality Program (Safe at Home)* (form NC-425)
9. ☐ *Other (describe):*

Date: _____

The name of the petitioner is to remain confidential UNLESS:

1. The petitioner's participation in the address confidentiality program is ended (Gov. Code, § 6206.7); or
2. The court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the allegations of domestic violence, stalking, or sexual assault in the petition are false. (Code Civ. Proc., § 1278(b).)

1 Confidentiality in name change proceedings

Changing your name, especially confidentially, is a life-changing decision. It may make it more difficult for you to enforce a restraining order, obtain a passport, apply for school programs, purchase or rent property, gain employment, get credit, or start a business, among other things.

The court must keep the current legal name of the petitioner (the person asking the court for a change of name) confidential if the petitioner is a participant in Safe at Home (the Secretary of State's confidential address program under Government Code section 6205 et seq.), and is asking for a change of name in order to avoid (1) domestic violence, (2) stalking, (3) sexual assault, or (4) human trafficking. (One of these reasons must be stated in the papers filed with the *Petition for Change of Name*.)

The court must not publish or post the petitioner's current legal name in the court's calendars, indexes, or registers of actions, or in any other place in which it might be accessible to the public. In addition, the proposed new name is not put into the court records at all and does not have to be published. (Code Civ. Proc., § 1277(b).)

To have your current and proposed legal names kept confidential by the court, follow the steps below.

2 Is a lawyer necessary?

You are not required to have a lawyer, but if you can, you should talk to a lawyer or legal service agency to discuss the effects of a confidential name change.

3 How to get started

Do not file anything with the court until you are an active participant in the Safe at Home program. You must complete and file a Notice of Intent of Name Change with the Safe at Home program at the Secretary of State's Office. You will receive a letter from that program to show to the court, confirming that you are an active participant in the confidential address program and that a Notice of Intent of Name Change is on file. You can reach the Safe at Home program by calling toll free 1-877-322-5227 or by going to www.sos.ca.gov/safeathome.

4 Where to file

Your name change petition must be filed in the superior court of the county where you currently live.

5 Whose name may be changed

You can use the petition to ask to change your own name and, under certain circumstances, the names of other people (such as children under 18 years of age). There are no filing fees for minors in the Safe at Home program.

6 Name changes for children

If you are asking to change the name of a minor, you may have to notify the child's parents or grandparents about the petition. Read item 8 on *Instructions for Filing a Petition for Change of Name* (form NC-100-INFO) for information about when this notice is required and how to provide it. Participating in Safe at Home does not change these requirements. You will generally not be able to change a child's name without notifying the other parent.

7 What forms are required

Item 4 on *Instructions for Filing a Petition for Change of Name* (form NC-100-INFO) explains which forms to complete to ask for a change of name. When you complete those forms, make sure that you:

- Include your current legal name in the items that ask for it on *Petition for Change of Name* (form NC-100), *Order to Show Cause—Change of Name* (form NC-120), and *Decree Changing Name* (form NC-130). **Do not** include your proposed new name. Instead, write that the proposed new name is confidential and is on file with the Secretary of State's Safe at Home program.
- Include the reasons you are asking for a name change when you complete *Attachment to the Petition for Change of Name* (form NC-110).
- Include a completed *Confidential Cover Sheet—Name Change Proceeding Under Address Confidentiality Program (Safe at Home)* (form NC-400) when you file your forms. Form NC-400 tells the court that attached documents contain confidential information. Do not include your current legal name on form NC-400. Include a completed form NC-400 any time you file documents in your name change proceeding.

You will also need a copy of the letter from the Safe at Home program to take to the court when filing the petition, to confirm that you are in the confidential address program and have a Notice of Intent of Name Change on file. Keep a copy of that letter for your records.

8 Requesting a court hearing date and obtaining the Order to Show Cause

Most people who file *Petition for Change of Name* (form NC-100) must also file and publish *Order to Show Cause—Change of Name* (form NC-120). Read *Instructions for Filing a Petition for Change of Name* (form NC-100-INFO) for more information about this requirement.

You do not have to publish the Order to Show Cause if you are participating in Safe at Home and you are filing the name change petition to avoid (1) domestic violence, (2) stalking, (3) sexual assault, or (4) human trafficking.

You should request a date for the hearing on the Order to Show Cause at least six weeks after the date you file the petition. Take the completed form to the clerk's office. The clerk will provide the hearing date and location, obtain the judicial officer's (judge's) signature, file the original, and give you a copy.

9 Court hearing

If no one files an objection to your petition at least two court days before the hearing, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. Check with the court to find out if a hearing will be held. If there is a hearing, bring copies of all documents to the hearing. If the court grants the petition, the judicial officer will sign *Decree Changing Name* (form NC-130).

10 Application to file documents under seal

If you believe that keeping your current and proposed names confidential is not enough protection, you can ask the court to file the petition and related documents under seal. Documents filed under seal are secured and kept separate from the public files.

The court cannot file your documents under seal unless you explain that the facts of your case show that:

- There is an overriding interest (a specific reason) that overcomes the right of public access to the record.
- That overriding interest supports sealing the name change documents.
- A substantial probability exists that the overriding interest will be prejudiced if the record is not sealed.
- The proposed order to seal the records is narrowly tailored to protect that overriding interest.
- No less restrictive means than sealing the whole record exist to achieve the overriding interest.

To ask the court to file your records under seal, you must follow the procedures in rule 2.577 of the California Rules of Court. You must file *Application to File Documents Under Seal in Name Change Proceeding Under Address Confidentiality Program (Safe at Home)* (form NC-410) and *Declaration in Support of Application to File Documents Under Seal in Name Change Proceeding Under Address Confidentiality Program (Safe at Home)* (form NC-420). On form NC-420, explain why the facts of your case justify the sealing.

Attach *Confidential Cover Sheet* (form NC-400) to the application. You must put all the documents that you want filed under seal into a sealed envelope marked "Conditionally Under Seal" with form NC-400 on top. Give the envelope to the court clerk (this is called "lodging"). If the application is denied, the clerk will return the documents to you unless you file a written notice within 10 days asking the court to file the documents unsealed.

11 Making the records public

Even if the documents are not sealed, as long as the other requirements are met, your name will remain confidential **UNLESS:**

- Your participation in the address confidentiality program is ended under Government Code section 6206.7; or
- The court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the allegations of domestic violence, stalking, or sexual assault in the petition are false (see Code of Civil Procedure section 1278(b).)

If another person or a court wants to make the records public for one of these reasons, the court must hold a hearing, and a notice will be sent to you. (Gov. Code, § 6206(a)(5)(A).)

Ask your court whether they have more instructions for Safe at Home proceedings. Your court might also have other information for you, such as identifying the department that handles name change petitions and the times when petitions are heard.

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE: TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.: EMAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name):	FOR COURT USE ONLY DRAFT 2026-03-26 Not approved by the Judicial Council
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:	
PETITION OF (name of each petitioner):	
PETITION FOR RECOGNITION OF MINOR'S CHANGE OF GENDER AND SEX IDENTIFIER AND FOR ISSUANCE OF NEW BIRTH CERTIFICATE ☐ AND CHANGE OF NAME	CASE NUMBER:
Use this form only for a petition relating to a minor. (Petitioners 18 years or older must use form NC-300.) Before completing this petition, read <i>Instructions for Filing Petition for Recognition of Minor's Change of Gender and Sex Identifier</i> (form NC-500-INFO). - If you are seeking a name change in addition to recognition of gender change, complete items 8 or 10. If you are only seeking recognition of gender change, skip these items. - If the petition is being brought by a guardian, an attorney appointed as guardian ad litem for a dependent minor (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 326.5), or an attorney for a minor under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 601 or 602), you must also complete <i>Declaration of Guardian or Juvenile Attorney</i> (form NC-510G).	

INFORMATION ABOUT PETITIONER

1. This request is being made by (minor's **current legal name**): and (check one of the following):
 - a. ☐ parent or parents (names):
 - b. ☐ guardian (name):
 - c. ☐ attorney for minor under jurisdiction of juvenile court (name):
 - d. ☐ near relative or friend (check only if all parents of minor are deceased and no guardian has been appointed)
Name and relationship to minor:
2. Petitioning minor either is a California resident or seeks a change to a California birth certificate.
3. Parents of minor (check one item below):
 - a. ☐ The minor has no living parent.
 - b. ☐ The minor has no living parent other than the parent or parents who have signed this petition.
 - c. ☐ Neither the minor nor the adult petitioner has any information about whether any nonsigning parent is living.
 - d. ☐ The minor has one or more living parents who have not signed the petition (specify names and addresses):
 Parent's Name: Address:

 Parent's Name: Address:
- ☐ Continued (Check this box if you need additional space. Attach a sheet of paper and write "Attachment 3d" for a title.)
4. ☐ (Check if petition is filed by a guardian or attorney appointed for minor under jurisdiction of juvenile court.)
 This petition is supported by the information contained in attached *Declaration of Guardian or Juvenile Attorney* (form NC-510G).

REQUEST FOR RECOGNITION OF CHANGE OF GENDER AND SEX IDENTIFIER

5. Petitioners request a decree recognizing that minor's gender and sex identifier is changed to:
 - a. ☐ female.
 - b. ☐ male.
 - c. ☐ nonbinary.



PETITION OF <i>(name of each petitioner):</i>	CASE NUMBER:
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6. ☐ *(Check if petition does not include the signature of all living parents.)* Petitioners request that the court issue an order on form NC-520 directing any living parent who did not sign this petition to file written objections to show cause why this petition for recognition of minor's change of gender and sex identifier should not be granted. (Form NC-520 is filed along with this document.)
7. ☐ *(Check if petition is filed by a guardian or guardian ad litem for minor and all parents are deceased or cannot be located.)* Petitioners request that the court issue an order on form NC-520 directing that any living grandparent file written objections to show cause why this petition for recognition of minor's change of gender and sex identifier should not be granted. (Form NC-520 is filed along with this document.)

REQUEST FOR ISSUANCE OF NEW CALIFORNIA CERTIFICATE

8. ☐ A decree of change of name for the minor has already been obtained, and a certified copy of the decree is attached.
9. ☐ Petitioners request the court to order that a new birth certificate be issued reflecting the recognition of gender change and any name change sought by this petition.

REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF NAME

10. ☐ Petitioner applies for a decree to change the name of the following minor to conform to their gender identity:
- a. The minor's information is included below:
- (1) Current legal name *(specify)*:
 - (2) Proposed legal name *(specify)*:
 - (3) Born on *(date of birth)*:
and presently under 18 years of age.
 - (4) Born at *(place of birth)*:
 - (5) Sex as stated on birth certificate *(check one; if your birth certificate reflects a nonbinary (X) gender marker, check the box shown on the original birth certificate for the purpose of a federal database search)*: ☐ Male ☐ Female
 - (6) Current residence address *(street)*:
City: County: State: Zip:
- b. Relationship of the petitioner to the person whose name will be changed:
- (1) ☐ Parent
 - (2) ☐ Guardian
 - (3) ☐ Guardian ad litem or attorney for minor appointed by juvenile court
 - (4) ☐ Near relative *(indicate relationship)*:
 - (5) ☐ Other *(specify)*:
- c. This is the right court for the petition to change name because minor *(check (1) or (2))*:
- (1) ☐ is a resident of this county.
 - (2) ☐ does not reside in California and wants to change their birth certificate that was issued in this county.
- d. Provide the names and addresses, if known, of the following persons:
- (1) Parent *(name)*: (address):
 - (2) Parent *(name)*: (address):
 - (3) *(Only if neither parent is living)* Near relatives *(names, relationships, and addresses)*:
- e. ☐ *(Check if petition does not include the signature of all living parents.)* Petitioners request that the court issue an order on form NC-520 directing all interested persons to file written objections to show cause why the petition for change of name should not be granted. (Form NC-520 is filed along with this document.)

11. Number of pages attached *(specify number)*:



PETITION OF <i>(name of each petitioner):</i>	CASE NUMBER:
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DECLARATION

I (*minor's current legal name*): _____ declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the request for a change in gender to (*check one*) ☐ female ☐ male ☐ nonbinary is to conform my legal gender to my gender identity and is not for any fraudulent purpose.

Date: _____

Type or Print Name of Minor (Use Current Legal Name)		Signature of Minor
---	--	--------------------

(Each petitioner must sign this petition in the space provided below or, if additional pages are attached, at the end of the last attachment.) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information in the foregoing petition is true and correct.

Date: _____

Type or Print Name of Petitioning Adult		Signature of Petitioning Adult
---	--	--------------------------------

Date: _____

Type or Print Name of Petitioning Adult		Signature of Petitioning Adult
---	--	--------------------------------

(If petitioner is represented by an attorney, attorney's signature follows.)

Date: _____

Type or Print Name of Petitioner's Attorney		Signature of Petitioner's Attorney
---	--	------------------------------------

☐ Add additional signature lines for additional petitioners

☐ Signature of petitioners follows last attachment

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILING PETITION FOR RECOGNITION OF MINOR'S CHANGE OF GENDER AND SEX IDENTIFIER

1. Who Can File

Anyone who lives in California or was born here (or got married or had children here) can ask a court for an order recognizing a change of gender and sex identifier and for issuance of a new birth certificate reflecting that change. If the person asking for the order is under 18, the petition must be made on form NC-500 and signed by an adult. (If the person is 18 or older, use form NC-300.) The petition for a minor must be signed by at least one of the following (it can be signed by more than one):

- One or more of the minor's parents
- The minor's guardian
- An attorney appointed to act as guardian ad litem for a dependent minor (under Welfare and Institutions Code section 326.5)
- An attorney representing a minor in the juvenile justice system (under Welfare and Institutions Code section 601 or 602)
- If all of minor's parents are deceased and no guardian has been appointed, a near relative or friend

If the child has more than two legal parents, please attach form MC-025 to the petition and explain.

2. Where to File

Petition for Recognition of Minor's Change of Gender and Sex Identifier and for Issuance of New Birth Certificate and Change of Name (form NC-500) may be filed in the superior court of any county in California, but if the petition **includes a request to change the minor's name**, it must be filed:

- If the minor is a California resident, in the superior court where the minor presently resides; or
- If the minor is not a California resident, in the superior court in the county where the minor's birth certificate was issued.

If the petition is filed by an attorney appointed as guardian ad litem for a dependent minor, or one representing a minor alleged or adjudged to be a person described in Welfare and Institutions Code section 601 or 602, the petition must be filed in the court having jurisdiction over the minor.

3. What Forms Are Required

All petitioners need an original and two copies of each of the following forms:

- *Petition for Recognition of Minor's Change of Gender and Sex Identifier and for Issuance of New Birth Certificate and Change of Name* (form NC-500)
- *Order Recognizing Minor's Change of Gender and Sex Identifier and for Issuance of New Birth Certificate* (form NC-530)
- *Civil Case Cover Sheet* (form CM-010)

Some petitioners will also need an original and two copies of each of the following forms:

- *Order to Show Cause—Recognition of Minor's Change of Gender and Issuance of New Birth Certificate* (form NC-520). This form is needed if
 - (1) the petition is not signed by all living parents of the minor; or
 - (2) the petition is filed by a guardian, guardian ad litem, or attorney acting for a minor under Welfare and Institutions Code section 601 or 602, **and** all of minor's parents are deceased or cannot be located.
- *Declaration of Guardian or Juvenile Attorney* (form NC-510G). This form is needed if the petition is filed by a guardian, by an attorney guardian ad litem, or an attorney acting for a minor under Welfare and Institutions Code section 601 or 602.

Local courts may require additional local forms. Check with your court to determine if additional forms are required.

4. Completing the Petition

Use form NC-500 only for a person under 18. (Adults seeking an order recognizing change of gender must use form NC-300.)

Section of form titled Information About Petitioner:

- In item 1, provide the name of the minor and the name of the adult who is signing the petition. One of the persons listed in that item must sign. (See paragraph 1 above as to which adults can sign.)
- Item 2 asserts that the petitioning minor is a California resident or is seeking a change to a California birth certificate.
- Item 3 asks whether the minor has any living parents. If the minor has any living parents who did **not** sign the petition, provide the name and address of any non-signing parent in item 3d.



4. • In item 4, check the box if the petition is signed by a guardian or dependency attorney appointed as a guardian ad litem, or an attorney acting for a minor under Welfare and Institutions Code section 601 or 602, **and** attach *Declaration of Guardian or Juvenile Attorney* (form NC-510G) to the petition.

Section of form titled Request for Recognition of Change of Gender and Sex Identifier:

- In item 5, check the box to indicate what gender and sex identifier the minor wants the court to recognize as the minor's new gender and sex identifier.
- Check item 6 **ONLY** if the petition is not signed by all living parents of the minor. This item asks the court to issue an order that will provide notice to any non-signing parent that any objections to the petition must be filed with the court within a certain time frame.
- Check item 7 **ONLY** if the petition is (1) filed by a guardian, a guardian ad litem, or an attorney acting for a minor under Welfare and Institutions Code section 601 or 602 **and** (2) all of minor's parents are deceased or cannot be located. This item asks the court to issue an order that will give notice to the minor's living grandparents that any objections to the petition must be filed with the court within a certain time frame.

Section of form titled Request for Issuance of New California Certificate:

- Check item 8 if the minor has previously obtained a decree of name change and wants to have their birth certificate reissued to reflect this name change. If checked, a certified copy of the name change decree must be attached. (If item 8 is checked, you do not need to complete item 10.)
- In item 9, check the box to request that the court order that a new birth certificate be issued that will reflect the gender change to be recognized by the court as well as any name change being sought by the petition.

Section of form titled Request for Change of Name:

Note: If the petition is not asking the court to change the name of the minor or to have minor's birth certificate reflect a prior name change, do not complete items 8 and 10 on the form. If the minor wants their name changed on their birth certificate, follow the instructions above.

- If requesting a change of name, check the box "And Change of Name" at the top part of form NC-500.
- In item 10a, complete the minor's current legal name, proposed legal name, date of birth, place of birth, sex as indicated on their birth certificate, and current address.
- In item 10b, check the box indicating the relationship of the petitioner to the minor.
- In item 10c, check the box showing why the name change petition may be filed in a particular court.
- In item 10d, provide the names and addresses of the parents or, if applicable, near relatives of the minor.
- Item 10e asks the court to issue an order that will give notice to all interested persons that any objections to the name change petition must be filed with the court within a certain time frame. If the petition is not signed by all living parents of the minor, check this item.

Remaining items on form

- In item 11, list the number of pages attached to the petition.
- **First Declaration:** The minor may complete (by filling out the minor's name and checking the box identifying the new gender) and sign the declaration that appears in the text box. Note that it is signed under penalty of perjury. The adult named in item 1 must also sign the form, and any living parent may also sign.

5. Filing and Filing Fee

Prepare an original *Civil Case Cover Sheet* (form CM-010). File with the clerk of the court the original petition and any attachments or orders to show cause required on page 1 of this information sheet with the *Civil Case Cover Sheet* and obtain two file-endorsed copies of the petition and any order to show cause. A filing fee will be charged unless you qualify for a fee waiver. If you want to apply for a fee waiver, see *Request to Waive Court Fees* (form FW-001) and *Information Sheet on Waiver of Superior Court Fees and Costs* (form FW-001-INFO).



6. Orders to Show Cause and Hearing Date

When an Order to Show Cause is required

An order to show cause may be required with certain petitions if:

- the petition is not signed by all living parents of the minor; or
- the petition is filed by a guardian, a guardian ad litem, or an attorney acting for a minor under Welfare and Institutions Code section 601 or 602 **and** all of minor's parents are deceased or cannot be located.

If any of these conditions apply, complete the top part of an original and two copies of the *Order to Show Cause—Recognition of Minor's Change of Gender and Issuance of New Birth Certificate* (form NC-520) (complete the portion of the form above the title, and check the box if a name change is requested). Submit that form with the petition. The clerk will obtain the judicial signature and give you back copies.

What to do with the Order to Show Cause

The order to show cause must be served on certain individuals, as described below, within a set time frame:

- If the petition did not include the signature of all living parents of the minor, a copy of the order and the petition must be served on the nonsigning parent within **four weeks** of issuance of the order.
- If the petition was filed by a guardian, a guardian ad litem, or an attorney acting for a minor under Welfare and Institutions Code section 601 or 602 **and** all of minor's parents are deceased or cannot be located, a copy of the order and the petition must be served on the minor's living grandparents within **four weeks** of issuance of the order.

If the person to be served lives in California, the form and petition must be served in person. If they live outside California, the form may be served either in person or by first-class mail requiring return receipt. If such service is not possible, or if the person lives outside the United States, then the court may order that service be done in another way. Service must be made by someone other than the petitioner, but the petitioner must have the server complete a proof of service and file it with the court.

(Form **NC-221/NC-321/NC-521** may be used.)

What happens next

If objections are filed within six weeks of the issuance of the order to show cause, the court will set a hearing date and send you and the objectors notice of the date, time, and place. If no objections are filed, the court will make the decision based on the petition.

7. Court Hearing

Check with the court after the deadline for objections to find out if a hearing will be held. If a hearing is held, bring copies of all documents to the hearing. If the **judicial officer** grants the petition, the **judicial officer** will sign the original order, form NC-530.

8. Requesting Accommodations for Disability

If you have a disability and need an accommodation while you are at court, you can use *Disability Accommodation Request* (form MC-410) to make your request. You can also ask the court's ADA Coordinator in your court for help. For more information, see *How to Request a Disability Accommodation for Court* (form MC-410-INFO).

9. Birth Certificate

If you were born in California, to obtain a new birth certificate reflecting the change of gender or name, file a certified copy of the order with the Secretary of State and the State Registrar and pay the applicable fees. You may write or contact the State Registrar at:

**California Department of Public Health
Vital Records – MS 5103
P.O. Box 997410
Sacramento, CA 95899-7410**

**Phone: 916-445-2684
Website: cdph.ca.gov**

10. Self-Help Guide

For more information, please visit the California Courts Self-Help Guide on gender recognition, available at selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/gender-change-recognition-order-index.

Local courts may supplement these instructions. Check with the court to determine whether supplemental information is available. For instance, the court may provide you with additional written information identifying the department that handles name- and gender-change petitions, and the times when petitions are heard.

CONFIDENTIAL**NC-510G**

PETITION OF (name of petitioner or petitioners):

CASE NUMBER:

FOR CHANGE OF GENDER (Minor)

DECLARATION OF GUARDIAN OR JUVENILE ATTORNEY (Attachment to Form NC-500)*Court-appointed guardians must fill out all items on this page.**An attorney appointed as guardian ad litem for a dependent minor (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 326.5) must complete items 1–4.**An attorney for a minor under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 601 or 602) must complete items 1–4.*

1. a. Petitioner (name):
b. Address (street, city, county, and zip code):
2. a. Minor seeking recognition of gender change (current legal name of minor):
b. Address (street, city, county, and zip code):
3. Petitioner was appointed guardian for minor or is attorney for minor who is under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court as follows:
 - a. Superior Court of California, County of (name):
 - b. Department (check one): ☐ Juvenile ☐ Probate
 - c. Case number (specify):
 - d. Date of appointment (if applicable):
4. If all parents are deceased or cannot be located, provide the following information for the minor's living grandparents (if known):

a. Grandparent's Name:	Address:
b. Grandparent's Name:	Address:
c. Grandparent's Name:	Address:
d. Grandparent's Name:	Address:

☐ Neither the minor nor the petitioner has any information about whether any of minor's grandparents are living.
5. The minor identified in item 2 is likely to remain under the guardian's care until the minor reaches the age of majority because (explain):
- ☐ Continued (For additional space, check the box, and attach a sheet of paper titled "Attachment 5" to this declaration.)
6. The minor identified in item 2 is not likely to be returned to the custody of the parents because (explain):
- ☐ Continued (For additional space, check the box, and attach a sheet of paper titled "Attachment 6" to this declaration.)
7. Other relevant information about the guardianship and why the proposed change is in the best interest of the minor (specify):
- ☐ Continued (For additional space, check the box, and attach a sheet of paper titled "Attachment 7" to this declaration.)

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information in the foregoing declaration is true and correct.

Date:

Type or Print Name

Signature of Petitioner

Guardian of (current legal name of minor):

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE: TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.: EMAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name):	FOR COURT USE ONLY DRAFT 2026-02-10 Not approved by the Judicial Council	
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:		
PETITION OF (name of each petitioner): FOR CHANGE OF GENDER (Minor)		
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE—RECOGNITION OF MINOR'S CHANGE OF GENDER AND ISSUANCE OF NEW BIRTH CERTIFICATE ☐ and CHANGE OF NAME		CASE NUMBER:

1. NAME CHANGE

- ☐ **TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS**
(Check only if the petition (form NC-500) includes a request for change of name. If not checked, go to item 2.)

a. A petition has been filed seeking change of name
from (minor's current **legal** name):
to (proposed **legal** name):

b. **THE COURT ORDERS** that any person objecting to the name change described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection **within six weeks of the date this order is issued**. If no written objection is timely filed, the court will grant the petition without a hearing **after the completion of the six weeks, except as provided in Code of Civil Procedure section 1279.5**.

c. Objections based solely on concerns that the proposed change is not the person's actual gender identity or gender assigned at birth do not constitute good cause. (See Code Civ. Proc., § 1277.5(b).)

2. **GENDER AND SEX IDENTIFIER CHANGE**

☐ **TO ANY LIVING PARENT OF MINOR WHO DID NOT SIGN PETITION**
(Check only if the petition (form NC-500) was not signed by all living parents of minor.)

☐ **TO ALL LIVING GRANDPARENTS OF MINOR**
(Check only if the petition (form NC-500) was brought by a guardian, a dependency attorney appointed as guardian ad litem, or an attorney acting for a minor under Welfare and Institutions Code section 601 or 602, and all parents are deceased or cannot be located.)

a. Petitioner (name of petitioning adult): filed a petition on behalf of
(current **legal** name of minor):
requesting a decree recognizing that minor's gender and sex identifier is changed to

(1) ☐ female
(2) ☐ male
(3) ☐ nonbinary

and an order for issuance of a new birth certificate reflecting minor's changed gender and sex identifier.

b. **THE COURT ORDERS** that any living parent or, if all parents are deceased or cannot be located, all living grandparents show cause, if any, why the petition should not be granted by filing a written objection that includes any reasons for the objection **within six weeks of the date this order is issued**. If no written objection is timely filed, the court will grant the petition without a hearing **after the completion of the six weeks**.

c. Objections based solely on the minor's actual gender identity or gender assigned at birth do not constitute good cause. (See Health & Saf. Code, § 103430(h).)

Date: _____

Judicial Officer

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE: TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.: EMAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name):	FOR COURT USE ONLY DRAFT 2026-02-10 Not approved by the Judicial Council
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:	
PETITION OF (name of each petitioner): FOR CHANGE OF GENDER (Minor)	
ORDER RECOGNIZING MINOR'S CHANGE OF GENDER AND SEX IDENTIFIER AND FOR ISSUANCE OF NEW BIRTH CERTIFICATE ☐ and DECREE CHANGING NAME	CASE NUMBER:

1. The petition was duly considered
- a. ☐ at the hearing on (date): _____ in courtroom: _____ of the above-entitled court.
- b. ☐ without a hearing.

THE COURT FINDS

2. ☐ Petitioner is a California resident or seeks a change to a California birth certificate.
3. a. All notices required by law have been given.
- b. The following person seeking recognition of a change of gender and sex identifier is a minor (specify **current legal name**):
- c. ☐ The petition includes a request regarding a change of name.
- (1) ☐ Petitioner requests that minor's name be changed to (specify **new name**):
- (a) ☐ The minor is a resident in this county.
- (b) ☐ The minor's birth certificate was issued in this county.
- (2) ☐ A certified copy of a court decree changing minor's name was attached to the petition.
- d. The petition was signed on behalf of the minor by
- (1) ☐ all of minor's parents (names):
- (2) ☐ fewer than all of minor's parents (names):
- (3) ☐ a guardian (name):
- (a) The minor is likely to remain in the guardian's care until the age of majority.
- (b) The minor is not likely to be returned to the custody of the parents.
- (4) ☐ an attorney guardian ad litem appointed by the juvenile court (name):
- (5) ☐ an attorney representing minor who is asserted to be a person described in Welfare and Institutions Code section 601 or 602 (name):
- (6) ☐ a near relative or friend (name and relationship to minor):
- (a) All of minor's parents are deceased.
- (b) No guardian has been appointed for minor.
- e. ☐ (For name change) Minor ☐ is not ☐ is required to register as a sex offender under Penal Code section 290. This determination was made (check one) ☐ by using CLETS/CJIS ☐ based on information provided to the clerk of the court by a local law enforcement agency.



PETITION OF <i>(name of each petitioner)</i> :	CASE NUMBER:
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3. f. ☐ No timely objections to the proposed changes were made.
- g. ☐ Objections to the proposed changes were made by *(name and relationship to minor)*:
- h. ☐ *(If objections by parent)* After considering objections by minor's parent, the court is satisfied that the proposed recognition of change of gender and sex identifier
- ☐ is in the best interest of the minor, and the petition should be granted.
- ☐ is not in the best interest of the minor, and the petition should be denied.
- i. ☐ The court is satisfied that all the allegations in the petition are true and sufficient, that the proposed recognition of change of gender and sex identifier (and name, if requested) are not fraudulent, and that the petition should be granted.
- j. ☐ Other findings *(if any)*:

THE COURT ORDERS

4. ☐ The gender and sex identifier of the minor **identified in item 3b** has been changed to
- a. ☐ female.
- b. ☐ male.
- c. ☐ nonbinary.

THE COURT FURTHER ORDERS

5. ☐ The name of *(legal name when petition was filed)*:
- a. ☐ is changed to *(new legal name)*:
- b. ☐ was previously changed by court decree.
6. ☐ A new birth certificate must be issued reflecting the change of gender described in item 4
- ☐ and change of name described in item 5.

If minor was born in California, a certified copy of this order shall be filed by the petitioner with the State Registrar. When the State Registrar receives a certified copy of this order and payment of the applicable fees, the State Registrar shall establish for the petitioner a new birth certificate reflecting the gender of the minor as it has been altered and any change of name specified in this order.

7. ☐ Other orders:

Date:

Judicial Officer

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Civil Practice and Procedure: Name Change and Gender Change Rules and Forms (Amend Cal. Rules of Court, rules 2.575 and 2.577; adopt forms NC-200, NC-210G, NC-221/NC-321/NC-521, NC-225, NC-230, and NC-230G; approve forms NC-015, NC-030, NC-200-INFO, and NC-250/NC-350/NC-550; revise forms NC-100, NC-100-INFO, NC-110, NC-130, NC-300, NC-300-INFO, NC-311, NC-312, NC-325, NC-330, NC-400, NC-400-INFO, NC-500, NC-500-INFO, NC-510G, NC-520, and NC-530; and revoke forms NC-125 and NC-150)

All comments are verbatim unless indicated by an asterisk (*).

	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
1.	ACLU California Action by Symphoni Barbee, Legislative Advocate ACLU of Northern California by Yoel Haile, Director of the Criminal Law and Immigration Project ACLU of Southern California by Amanda Goad, Director of the Gender, Sexuality, & Reproductive Justice Project ACLU of San Diego & Imperial Counties by Branden C. Sigua, Senior Policy Advocate	NI	ACLU California Action and the ACLU Foundations of Northern and Southern California and San Diego & Imperial Counties write to offer comments in response to the above Invitation. We appreciate the opportunity to offer feedback on the proposed new and updated Rules of Court and court forms relating to petitions and orders recognizing changes of name and/or gender. ACLU California Action and the ACLU Foundations of Northern California, Southern California, and San Diego and Imperial Counties (collectively “ACLU”) are affiliates of the national American Civil Liberties Union. For more than 100 years, the ACLU has advanced civil rights in California through, among other things, extensive impact litigation rooted in Constitutional and statutory guarantees of equality and liberty, and sponsorship or support of numerous pieces of legislation aimed at preventing and eradicating discrimination. Today, the ACLU’s work focuses on protecting civil rights and civil liberties, advancing equity, justice, and freedom, and dismantling systems rooted in oppression and discrimination. The ACLU has a long history of working to advance civil rights and lived equality for transgender, nonbinary, and intersex (TNI) people in California through litigation, legislative and policy advocacy, and community engagement. Some of this work has specifically sought to protect and promote the rights, safety, and dignity of incarcerated people who are also TNI, including our cosponsorship of SB 132 of 2020 (the “Transgender Respect, Agency, and Dignity Act” addressing treatment of TNI people in state prison custody), our prosecution of class actions to challenge unfair and unsafe treatment of TNI, gay, and bisexual people in county jails (<i>Robertson v. Block</i> in Los Angeles	See the committee’s responses to the ACLU’s substantive comments below. The committee acknowledges the ACLU’s general support for the adoption of new and revised forms.

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Civil Practice and Procedure: Name Change and Gender Change Rules and Forms (Amend Cal. Rules of Court, rules 2.575 and 2.577; adopt forms NC-200, NC-210G, NC-221/NC-321/NC-521, NC-225, NC-230, and NC-230G; approve forms NC-015, NC-030, NC-200-INFO, and NC-250/NC-350/NC-550; revise forms NC-100, NC-100-INFO, NC-110, NC-130, NC-300, NC-300-INFO, NC-311, NC-312, NC-325, NC-330, NC-400, NC-400-INFO, NC-500, NC-500-INFO, NC-510G, NC-520, and NC-530; and revoke forms NC-125 and NC-150)

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			County and McKibben v. McMahon in San Bernardino County), and our current involvement in Chandler v. CDCR (a challenge to SB 132's constitutionality, in which we represent individual incarcerated transgender women and the TGI Justice Project as defendant-intervenors). The ACLU also has a long history of litigation and other advocacy work to protect individual privacy rights in various contexts. The ACLU supported SB 59 of 2025, and accordingly supports the adoption of new and updated court forms and instructions to implement the additional confidentiality protections SB 59 afforded to TNI petitioners. However, we suggest two substantive changes to the proposed name and gender change forms to better align them with practical realities and underlying statutes. In addition, it is our understanding that a group of legal services attorneys who frequently assist TNI petitioners with the name and gender change process and other LGBTQ+ advocates are planning to submit more detailed comments on the forms, and we encourage the Council to seriously consider their input as well.	
			<u>"Original Birth Certificate"</u> At Item 1(a)(5) of Form NC-110, Item 4(a)(5) of Form NC-200, Item 5(a)(5) of Form NC-300, Item 10(a)(5) of Form NC-500, and corresponding sections of the forms' instructions (e.g. Item 4 of NC-500-INFO), petitioners are instructed to provide the "sex as indicated on [the] original birth certificate" of the person seeking a name change. We ask the Council to revisit this aspect of the forms and instructions because of the potential privacy and safety issues associated with disclosing original birth certificate information.	The committee does not recommend omitting this information from the forms. Code of Civil Procedure section 1279.5 requires courts to use the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS) and Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) to determine whether an applicant for a name change is required to register as a sex offender. The federal database for this purpose requires a binary sex identifier (M or

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			California law requires the State Registrar to “issue a new birth certificate reflecting a change of gender and sex identifier to female, male, or nonbinary without a court order for any person who has a birth certificate issued by this state” and who submits a request for the change accompanied by the required attestation and fee. Health and Safety Code § 103426. By issuing <i>new</i> birth certificates to TNI individuals who make such requests, California avoids the privacy and safety issues and constitutional violations that have resulted from other jurisdictions’ practices of issuing visibly amended birth certificates. <i>See, e.g.,</i> Settlement Agreement in <i>Hersom et al. v. Crouch et al.</i> (S.D.W.V. No. 2:21-cv-00450, Oct. 26, 2022) (available at https://www.acluww.org/press-releases/aclu-settles-lawsuit-after-west-virginia-officials-reveal-new-process-amending-names/) (confirming that West Virginia stopped issuing amended birth certificates to transgender people that revealed sensitive information from before their gender transitions, after the ACLU challenged this practice on due process, equal protection, and First Amendment grounds). Compelling name and gender change petitioners to disclose the gender marker shown on their <i>original</i> birth certificates means requiring them to disclose information that California has long recognized is private and sensitive; indeed, the need to keep records of gender transition as private as possible motivated the passage of SB 59 last year (which in turn prompted the currently proposed form updates). While the proposed update calls for forms NC-200, NC-300, and NC-500 to be filed as confidential and this will mitigate privacy and safety issues associated with disclosure of original birth certificate information, form NC-110 will <i>not</i> be filed as confidential. Thus, the requirement to disclose one’s original birth certificate sex marker will have the effect	F) to run a search and thus the forms need to collect the information. However, the committee recommends the deletion of “original” in “original birth certificate” to account for subsequently amended birth certificates. The committee also recommends including a parenthetical instruction in forms NC-110, NC-200, NC-300, and NC-500 explaining which box to check if the person’s birth certificate reflects a nonbinary gender marker and noting that the purpose of the information is for a federal database search.

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Civil Practice and Procedure: Name Change and Gender Change Rules and Forms (Amend Cal. Rules of Court, rules 2.575 and 2.577; adopt forms NC-200, NC-210G, NC-221/NC-321/NC-521, NC-225, NC-230, and NC-230G; approve forms NC-015, NC-030, NC-200-INFO, and NC-250/NC-350/NC-550; revise forms NC-100, NC-100-INFO, NC-110, NC-130, NC-300, NC-300-INFO, NC-311, NC-312, NC-325, NC-330, NC-400, NC-400-INFO, NC-500, NC-500-INFO, NC-510G, NC-520, and NC-530; and revoke forms NC-125 and NC-150)

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			of “outing” TNI individuals who previously completed a legal name change to conform to their gender identity (or were comfortable maintaining their original legal name through the process of gender transition) and who subsequently pursue another name change for unrelated reasons. Many members of California’s TNI community are very anxious about being “outed” because of the present federal administration’s attacks on TNI people and identities, and the very real risk that information about the sex appearing on an original birth certificate will be weaponized against a TNI individual, resulting not only in exposure to stigma and/or violence as a result of unauthorized disclosure of the information but also in grave governmental consequences like denial of a gender-appropriate passport, expulsion from military service, loss of access to gender-appropriate restrooms on federal property, and so forth. In order to better fulfill the confidentiality-protecting stated purpose of this package of form updates, we ask the Council to omit the “sex as indicated on original birth certificate” language from all court forms where it currently appears. If that is not possible, at a minimum we suggest omitting the item from Form NC-110 and clarifying the purpose of asking for this information on the other, confidential forms where the request appears.	
			<u>Name and Gender Changes While Incarcerated</u> Forms NC-100-INFO at Item 9, NC-200-INFO at Item 9, and NC-300-INFO at Item 6 all provide instructions specifically for petitioners who are pursuing name and/or gender changes while incarcerated in county jail or state prison. The instructions on all three informational forms direct petitioners to check with the sheriff’s department detaining them or the office of the warden of the state prison where they are housed to	This comment is beyond the scope of the current proposal. The committee will consider this comment as time and resources permit.

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Civil Practice and Procedure: Name Change and Gender Change Rules and Forms (Amend Cal. Rules of Court, rules 2.575 and 2.577; adopt forms NC-200, NC-210G, NC-221/NC-321/NC-521, NC-225, NC-230, and NC-230G; approve forms NC-015, NC-030, NC-200-INFO, and NC-250/NC-350/NC-550; revise forms NC-100, NC-100-INFO, NC-110, NC-130, NC-300, NC-300-INFO, NC-311, NC-312, NC-325, NC-330, NC-400, NC-400-INFO, NC-500, NC-500-INFO, NC-510G, NC-520, and NC-530; and revoke forms NC-125 and NC-150)

All comments are verbatim unless indicated by an asterisk (*).

	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			find out how they should provide a copy of their petition to those agencies. This language accords[fn 1] with Code of Civil Procedure Section 1279.5(e), which requires each incarcerated petitioner to provide a copy of their petition to the applicable incarcerating agency “in a manner prescribed by the department.” From our work with TNI people in the custody of state prisons and various counties’ jails, as well as our communications with fellow advocates, it is our understanding that most of the relevant agencies direct incarcerated individuals pursuing legal name changes to provide copies of their petition directly to specified staff members, often accompanied by an “inmate request form” or similar document that assists with routing and processing of the submission.[fn. 2] However, the NC-100-INFO, NC-200-INFO, and NC-300-INFO instructions go on to instruct incarcerated petitioners to “file a copy of the completed <i>Proof of Service By First-Class Mail-Civil</i> (form POS-030) with the court.” Form POS-030 is a declaration under penalty of perjury that the signer sent the documents in question, or arranged for them to be sent, via the U.S. Postal Service, and thus does not fit the circumstances of an incarcerated petitioner who provides a copy of their petition and supporting papers directly to jail or prison staff without involving the Postal Service.[fn 3] Moreover, both form POS-030 and form POS-020 (<i>Proof of Personal Service-Civil</i>) specify that an individual who is <i>not</i> a party to the action must perform and attest to service, which also does not fit the circumstances of an incarcerated petitioner pursuing a name change (typically without benefit of counsel) who personally provides a copy of their court filing to the agency detaining them pursuant to the statutory provision governing name changes while incarcerated.	

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Civil Practice and Procedure: Name Change and Gender Change Rules and Forms (Amend Cal. Rules of Court, rules 2.575 and 2.577; adopt forms NC-200, NC-210G, NC-221/NC-321/NC-521, NC-225, NC-230, and NC-230G; approve forms NC-015, NC-030, NC-200-INFO, and NC-250/NC-350/NC-550; revise forms NC-100, NC-100-INFO, NC-110, NC-130, NC-300, NC-300-INFO, NC-311, NC-312, NC-325, NC-330, NC-400, NC-400-INFO, NC-500, NC-500-INFO, NC-510G, NC-520, and NC-530; and revoke forms NC-125 and NC-150)

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			We encourage the Council to consider creating a separate form for incarcerated^[fn. 4] petitioners that would allow them to attest under penalty of perjury to having provided a copy of their petition and supporting documents to their incarcerating agency in the manner prescribed by that agency. This would be far more efficient than the current system that appears to require service by mail despite the lack of such a requirement in statute, the logistical challenges of effecting service by mail while incarcerated, and the policies and procedures in effect in most jurisdictions that call for other forms of communication about name change proceedings.	
			<u>Conclusion</u> We appreciate the Council’s affording stakeholders an opportunity to comment on the forms and instructions. [fn 1. The instructions provided on Forms NC-100-INFO and NC-200-INFO on this point are slightly different from those provided on Form NC-300-INFO. The latter indicates that a petitioner in state prison must provide a copy of their petition to the “warden” of the facility housing them, while the statute merely requires providing it to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in a manner prescribed by the Department. Attempting to correspond directly with a facility warden about this issue will not be efficient or productive for many incarcerated petitioners. We suggest amending the NC-300-INFO instructions to align with those provided on Forms NC-100-INFO and NC-200-INFO and with the underlying statutory provision. fn 2. At least one large county jail system has adopted a policy stating that incarcerated name change petitioners are <i>not</i> expected to submit a	The committee appreciates the comments provided.

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Civil Practice and Procedure: Name Change and Gender Change Rules and Forms (Amend Cal. Rules of Court, rules 2.575 and 2.577; adopt forms NC-200, NC-210G, NC-221/NC-321/NC-521, NC-225, NC-230, and NC-230G; approve forms NC-015, NC-030, NC-200-INFO, and NC-250/NC-350/NC-550; revise forms NC-100, NC-100-INFO, NC-110, NC-130, NC-300, NC-300-INFO, NC-311, NC-312, NC-325, NC-330, NC-400, NC-400-INFO, NC-500, NC-500-INFO, NC-510G, NC-520, and NC-530; and revoke forms NC-125 and NC-150)

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			copy of their petition at the time of filing – in other words, the manner of service prescribed by the sheriff’s department in that county is “none.” fn 3. The current and proposed forms’ indication that service by first-class mail is required not only departs from the underlying statutory provision, but also poses problems for incarcerated petitioners who typically have limited access to postage (see Form POS-030 Item 4(a)), limited information about appropriate names and addresses to use when attempting service by mail (particularly when mail is not the manner of notification prescribed by the relevant agency)(Item 5), and no ability to attest to that agency’s procedures for prompt processing of outgoing mail (Item 4b). fn 4. This form could potentially also be appropriate for use by petitioners on parole, since the instructions also call for such individuals to provide copies to the office of the applicable regional parole administrator, although that requirement does not appear in Code of Civil Procedure Section 1279.5.]	
2.	Anonymous	AM	Thank you for the new forms to request the confidentiality of gender/name change petitions. My feedback is for Proposed Form NC-015: it would be helpful if there was a way to account for parent petitioners who filed petitions on behalf of their minor child. My spouse was the petitioner for our trans child, and as this form is written, there is no way for my spouse to account for that fact.	In response to this comment and similar comments from Equality California and its co-commenters, the committee recommends including a question on form NC-015 to ask whether the person filling out the form is the “parent, guardian, near relative, or friend who signed the petition listed in item 2, which was brought by, or on the behalf of, a minor.” To solicit

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Civil Practice and Procedure: Name Change and Gender Change Rules and Forms (Amend Cal. Rules of Court, rules 2.575 and 2.577; adopt forms NC-200, NC-210G, NC-221/NC-321/NC-521, NC-225, NC-230, and NC-230G; approve forms NC-015, NC-030, NC-200-INFO, and NC-250/NC-350/NC-550; revise forms NC-100, NC-100-INFO, NC-110, NC-130, NC-300, NC-300-INFO, NC-311, NC-312, NC-325, NC-330, NC-400, NC-400-INFO, NC-500, NC-500-INFO, NC-510G, NC-520, and NC-530; and revoke forms NC-125 and NC-150)

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
				information on who is petitioning and on whose behalf, the committee also recommends that form NC-015 contain separate fields asking for (1) the name of the person whose name or gender identifier was sought to be changed, and (2) the name of the person filling out the form. The committee also recommends adding instructions before the signature lines on form NC-015 to clarify who can sign form NC-015.
3.	Equality California, All Family Legal, PC, Alliance for TransYouth Rights, California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network, California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc., California Women's Law Center, CalPride Valle Central, East Bay Community Law Center, Gender Affirming Professionals, Lambda Legal, Legal Aid Association of California, Racial & Ethnic Mental	NI	On behalf of leading LGBTQ+, legal, and civil rights organizations, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee's proposed revisions and additions to the Judicial Council rules and forms governing name change and gender and sex identifier recognition proceedings. We worked closely with the Judicial Council, the Legislature, and impacted individuals to draft Assembly Bill 1084 (Stats. 2025, ch. 723) and Senate Bill 59 (Stats. 2025, ch. 738). These new laws are critical to ensuring that transgender and nonbinary Californians can obtain accurate, affirming identity documents through a streamlined process while protecting the confidentiality of sensitive court records. We strongly support the overall intent of the proposed revisions and commend the Judicial Council and Advisory Committee for their efforts to implement AB 1084 and SB 59 as intended. At the same time, based on our direct experience assisting hundreds of individuals who rely on these procedures, we believe there are important revisions needed to	See the committee's responses to Equality California and its co-commenters' substantive comments below.

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
	Health Disparities Coalition, Rainbow Families Action, Sacramento LGBT Community Center, San Diego Pride, Somos Familia Valle, The LGBTQ Center Long Beach, Trans Can Work, TransFamily Support Services, Transgender Resource Advocacy & Network Service (T.R.A.N.S.), and University of San Diego School of Law Name and Gender Marker Change Clinic by Craig Pulsipher, Legislative Director of Equality California		fully realize the Legislature’s intent and to ensure clarity, consistency, and ease of use for both court users and court staff. Our comments below are organized by form, with priority revisions highlighted for your careful consideration. We welcome the opportunity to discuss our feedback further and to continue working with the Judicial Council to support effective implementation.	
			Form NC-015 • [PRIORITY] NC-015 needs to be as streamlined and simplified as much as possible, since this form is likely to be used repeatedly by self-represented petitioners who will not have legal understanding or expertise. Please see FL-395 for a sample form that could be used as a model. Most of our comments flow from the goal of simplicity and clarity.	The committee appreciates the response. SB 59 allows petitioners to request confidentiality retroactively and indefinitely. Because of this and to give clerks sufficient information to locate the underlying proceeding and associated records, the committee recommends including more information than form FL-395. However, the committee also recommends changes to simplify and streamline form NC-015.
			• [PRIORITY] The courts need clear instructions that there cannot be a filing fee charged with the form, as we are still seeing most courts charging fees. In the box with instructions at the top, we suggest adding a line at the bottom of the box that says: “Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 103437, the petitioner may make this request ex parte and without paying a filing fee.	The committee recommends adding an instruction similar to the one described by the commenter to the top of form NC-015.
			• [PRIORITY] This form as written will be confusing for parents filing on behalf of minor children. While minor children’s records should be confidential automatically, that was not the case for children whose petitions were filed prior to 2024. For example, under item 1, current	The committee recommends refining form NC-015 to ask whether the person filling out the form is the “parent, guardian, near relative, or friend who signed the petition listed in

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Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
		legal name, should that be listing the name of the parent or the child? A simpler format may be as follows: - o 1. Name of petitioner/declarant: - o ... - o 1c. I am the ☐ petitioner who filed the petition listed in item 1a ☐ parent of the child who filed the petition listed in item 1 a ☐ attorney for the petitioner	item 2, which was brought by, or on the behalf of, a minor.” See Health and Safety Code section 103430(b)(1).
		• [PRIORITY] Item 2 is unnecessarily complex and confusing for petitioners, particularly those who are not familiar with legal terminology, and provides no added benefit. By the time that this form is issued, all name changes to conform with gender identity, gender changes, and combined applications will be required to be made confidential, either automatically upon filing or by request for prior cases. The reasoning behind the request is not relevant, as the confidentiality must be granted. Per the language of the statute, there is no judicial discretion so long as the case fits into one of those three case types. Item 2 can be as simple as to say: “I am asking the court to make the petition listed in item 1, and all records associated with the petition, confidential.” with no additional reasoning required.	The committee recommends simplifying this item (now numbered as item 5) by removing the rationales that went out for comment explaining how the records were previously made confidential. However, the committee recommends retaining the two broad categories outlined in statute: that the petition was filed before July 1, 2026 (Health and Safety Code section 103437(c)(2)) or that court records are not being kept confidential in error (Health and Safety Code section 103437(d)). The committee recommends retaining these distinctions because having petitioners identify that court records are not being kept confidential may help courts identify system- or process-based errors.

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Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
		[PRIORITY] For the signature instructions, it can still be confusing in cases where the change was for a minor. We suggest the following language: “If the petitioner is the person whose name was changed, use the petitioner's current legal name. If the petitioner is currently a minor child or if the petitioner was a minor child at the time that the petition was granted, the petitioner's parent may sign the parent's name on the petitioner line on behalf of the child.”	The committee recommends adding instructions before the signature lines on form NC-015 to clarify that the parent, guardian, near relative, or friend who signed the petition should sign form NC-015 if the petition sought to change the name or gender and sex identifier, or both, of a minor and that person is still a minor.
		The form itself should be titled an Ex Parte Request to Make Records Confidential, as this is allowed by statute to be done ex parte and it should be handled on an expedited basis when filed. In the alternative, there could be an item with a checkbox stating, “I am filing this request ex parte.”	Because Health and Safety Code section 103437(c)(2) and (d) authorize petitioners to apply ex parte for these orders, the committee recommends revising the title of form NC-015 to include “Ex Parte.” This is consistent with other Judicial Council forms, including, for example, form FL-395.
		Item 1a could be made easier for the reader by putting option 3 first. Many people do not read carefully or stop reading after they believe they have found what they need. For people who completed a combined petition, they are likely to check one of the first two boxes without reading through to the third option.	To reduce user error and for simplicity, the committee recommends rephrasing this item so that the combined petition option is listed first.
		Item 1b is not necessary, as the same information will be inserted into the top of the form where the court county and case number must be listed. Clerks will generally reject filings without complete information in the top section.	The committee does not recommend omitting the county and case number from form NC-015. SB 59 allows petitioners to request confidentiality retroactively and indefinitely. Among other things, this field enables clerks to confirm whether the request is being

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				made in the county possessing the underlying records.
			If necessary to flag for the court that this is a request upon finding that the court records are not being kept confidential, in violation of the law (see 103437(d)), there could be a separate form that explains that the case is not being kept confidential by the court, per the requirements of Health and Safety Code section 103437(c) and then goes into the subsections and the reasonings. For example, it was filed after July 1, 2026 or the court already granted the request and it's not being followed.	The committee does not recommend a new form for this purpose. Instead, the committee recommends streamlining this item further to remove the rationales that went out for comment explaining how the records were previously made confidential.
			On the Signature of Attorney line, you could add "(if any)" to make it clear that an attorney is not required to request confidentiality.	The committee recommends adding an instruction before the lines requesting an attorney's signature that read, " <i>If the petitioner is represented by an attorney, attorney's signature follows.</i>)" to emphasize that an attorney is not required.
			Form NC-030 [PRIORITY] Item 2 is overly complex and confusing with no added benefit. By the time that this form is issued, all name changes to conform with gender identity, gender changes, and combined applications will be required to be made confidential, either automatically upon filing or by request for prior cases. The reasoning behind the order is not relevant, as the confidentiality must be granted. Per the language of the statute, there is no judicial discretion so long as the case fits into one of those three case types. Item 2 can be as simple as to say: "The petitioner asked the court for an order making the petition listed in item 1, and all records associated with the petition, confidential." with no additional reasoning required.	The committee recommends simplifying this item on form NC-030 in a similar manner to what is recommended for form NC-015.

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			[PRIORITY] Item 3. Court clerks will be the ones implementing these orders, so having more language and clarity around the confidentiality will be helpful to the clerks, as they are unlikely to look up the language of the codes cited. We suggest the following updates: () The application is granted. The court shall limit access to the court records in the proceeding, including this order, the application for this order, the petition listed in item 1, and all records associated with the petition, the index, register of actions, and any other case information available through court systems used to provide the public with electronic access to court records. Upon the court ordering a change of name or gender and sex identifier, or both, the court shall limit access to the petitioner, a minor who received a change of name or gender and sex identifier, or both (if applicable), an adult who signed the petition, any attorney representing those individuals, and any agents acting pursuant to written authorization from those individuals or their attorneys. () (If the petition has not yet been granted:) i. (For adult petitioners:) Until the court orders a change of name or gender and sex identifier, or both, the court shall not provide access to anyone other than the petitioner, any other person who signed the petition, an individual who is subject to service of an order to show cause related to the petition, any attorney representing those individuals, and any agents acting pursuant to written authorization from those individuals or their attorneys. ii. (For cases in which the petition was brought on behalf of a minor:) The court shall limit access prior to an order changing the minor's name	The committee does not recommend the approach suggested by the commenter because, among other things, who maintains access to these court records can change over time (see Health and Safety Code section 103437(b)). However, this comment raises the importance of clerks being able to clearly identify whether the petition has been granted and whether the petition was brought on the behalf of a minor, as these variables impact who maintains access to the court records under Health and Safety Code section 103437(b). For these reasons, the committee recommends requesting information on form NC-015 as to whether the underlying petition has been granted and whether it was brought on the behalf of a minor. The committee further recommends reiterating that same information on form NC-030. Finally, the committee recommends adding instructions to clerks at the top of form NC-030 about factors that govern access to these court records.

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		or gender and sex identifier, or both, to the minor subject of the petition, the minor's parents, guardians, and guardians ad litem, an individual subject to service of an order to show cause related to the petition, any attorney representing those individuals, and any agents acting pursuant to written authorization from those individuals or their attorneys.	
		Item 1a could be made easier for the reader by putting option 3 first. Many people do not read carefully or stop reading after they believe they have found what they need. For people who completed a combined petition, they are likely to check one of the first two boxes without reading through to the third option.	The committee recommends rewording this item so that the combined petition option is listed first to reduce user error.
		Item 1b is not necessary, as the same information will be inserted into the top of the form where the court county and case number must be listed. The court will generally ensure that this information is included at the top of the form.	The committee does not recommend omitting the county and case number from form NC-030. SB 59 allows petitioners to request confidentiality retroactively and indefinitely. Among other things, this field enables clerks to confirm whether the request is being made in the county possessing the underlying records.
		Item 3b. Because it will be the court's burden to choose the correct denial option, we're less worried about the complexity. However, the only reason that the court would not be allowed to grant the request is if they don't have the information they need, or the case does not fall under the case type that is confidential. It may be simpler to reduce to: b. The application is denied because (check all that apply): (1) The application was incomplete. (2) This case was not a proceeding for a change of gender and sex identifier, for a combined change of the petitioner's name and	The committee recommends that the reasons for denial reflect whether the application was incomplete and an "other" option. There may be other circumstances that arise that could lead to a denial beyond those identified by the commenter, such as where a person believes that the court is not keeping their records confidential in error, but the person filed their petition before

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			recognition of the change to the petitioner's gender and sex identifier, or for a change of name to conform the petitioner's name to the petitioner's gender identity.	July 1, 2026, and never requested confidentiality.
			If left in its current form, Health and Safety Code Section 103437 is incorrectly cited as “section 103734” at Items 3(b)(2) and 3(b)(3) of Form NC-030.	This committee has corrected the typographical error on form NC-030.
			Form NC-100 Item 5(a) should be changed to “all parents” instead of “two parents,” since California will occasionally recognize more than two legal parents, and the point is to show that all parents are in support of the request.	The committee does not recommend adding this information to form NC-100 because this situation seems rare enough that changing the petition could be confusing for most people. The committee does, however, recommend adding information to the relevant information sheets (forms NC-100-INFO, NC-200-INFO, and NC-500-INFO) indicating that if a child has more than two legal parents, form MC-025 should be attached to the petition to provide additional information. The committee also recommends revisions to item 8 of forms NC-100-INFO and NC-200-INFO to refer to “a nonconsenting parent” instead of “the nonconsenting parent.”
			NC-100-INFO Item 5. “File the original versions (not copies) of the forms listed above,” may be confusing for e-filers, which are becoming increasingly	The committee recommends making this change to form NC-100-INFO and to similar language on form NC-200-INFO to clarify the differences

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			common. You may consider adding, “If you are filing in person or by mail, file the original versions (not copies) of the forms listed above...”	between filing in-person, filing by mail, and e-filing.
			Item 8b, “You cannot personally serve this document.” This may be confusing, as the reader is told to serve it, and then the next sentence could be read and understood to mean that the document cannot be served. We suggest amending to “You, as the person filing this case, cannot be the person who personally serves this document.”	The committee recommends making this change to form NC-100-INFO and to similar language on form NC-200-INFO to clarify that the person filing the case cannot personally serve the documents themselves, but must nevertheless ensure that the documents are served.
			Item 9 currently instructs incarcerated petitioners to “file a copy of the completed Proof of Service By First-Class Mail-Civil (form POS-030) with the court”, which needs revision to accord with the actual practices of state prisons and county jails. Code of Civil Procedure Section 1279.5(e), which requires each incarcerated petitioner to provide a copy of their petition to the applicable incarcerating agency “in a manner prescribed by the department.” It is our understanding that the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and many Sheriff’s Departments direct incarcerated individuals pursuing legal name changes to provide a copy of their petition directly to specified staff members, not to mail it. Although this is arguably a form of personal service, current form POS-020 is also not a good fit for this situation because it requires a non-party to the action to perform and attest to service when incarcerated petitioners are typically expected to hand over copies to jail or prison staff themselves. We encourage the Committee to create a separate service form for incarcerated petitioners that would allow them to attest under penalty of perjury to having provided a copy of their petition and supporting documents to their incarcerating agency in the manner prescribed by that agency. This	This comment is beyond the scope of the current proposal. The committee will consider this comment as time and resources permit.

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			would reduce confusion among incarcerated petitioners, improve efficiency for incarcerating agencies, and better accord with the language and intent of the underlying statute.	
			Form NC-110 [PRIORITY] Item 1(a)(5) “Sex (as stated on original birth certificate):” could potentially out transgender petitioners who have already updated their gender and are requesting a name change not to conform to gender identity (for example, to change their surname to a name that is not associated with a family who may have rejected them). Outing transgender petitioners in this way would contradict the intent of SB 59, and of the Gender Recognition Act of 2017 (which instructs the State Registrar to issue a new birth certificate, not visibly amended, to individuals who update the listed sex), and pose serious privacy and safety concerns. We suggest cutting this item, as the date of birth and place of birth should provide enough information to identify the petitioner with specificity.	Please see the committee’s response to a similar comment from the ACLU and its co-commenters.
			Form NC-120 Item 3a requires that the petitioner specify which newspaper the publication will be made in. This information does not appear necessary and can become a problem if such newspaper is no longer available for publication purposes, since once it is stamped, it becomes a court order. We suggest removing any requirement to specify the newspaper on that form and allowing petitioners to choose the newspaper for publication after filing, if more convenient.	This comment addresses a form that is beyond the scope of the current proposal. The committee will consider this comment as time and resources permit.
			Form NC-200 [PRIORITY] Item 1. Petitioner is the person filing the request, but the basis for jurisdiction and venue is the person whose name is being changed. We suggest adding to the line between 1 and a “The person whose name is being requested to be changed (check a or b):”	Code of Civil Procedure section 1276 is the statutory authority for the venue items on forms NC-100 and NC-200. Section 1276 references the residence of the person whose name is to be

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				changed. The committee therefore recommends revisions to forms NC-100 and NC-200 to ask about the person whose name is to be changed rather than the petitioner. On form NC-100, the committee also recommends providing additional instructions regarding how to complete the item if multiple name changes are requested and the answer differs among those persons.
			[PRIORITY] Item 4. The form states that “if the petitioner is a guardian of a minor, a declaration of guardian (form NC-220G) must also be completed and attached.” This appears to be an error, as Form NC-220G does not exist. We believe this reference should instead be to Form NC-210G, which is the applicable guardianship form. We recommend correcting this citation to avoid confusion and prevent filing delays.	The committee has corrected this typographical error.
			Item 2(a) should be changed to “all parents” instead of “two parents,” since California will occasionally recognize more than two legal parents, and the point is to show that all the parents are in support of the request.	Please see the committee’s response to a similar comment from this commenter on form NC-100.
			Item 4(a)(5) should not ask for “sex (as stated on original birth certificate),” for the reasons discussed above under Form NC-110.	Please see the committee’s response to a similar comment from the ACLU and its co-commenters.
			Form NC-200-INFO Item 8b, “You cannot personally serve this document.” May be confusing, as the reader is told to serve it, and then the next sentence could be read and understood to mean that the document cannot be	The committee recommends making this change to form NC-200-INFO and to similar language on form NC-100-INFO to clarify that the person filing

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			served. We suggest amending to “You, as the person filing this case, cannot be the person who personally serves this document.”	the case cannot personally serve the documents themselves, but must nevertheless ensure that the documents are served.
			Item 9, instructing incarcerated petitioners to provide proof of service by mail, needs revision as discussed under Form NC-100-INFO.	This comment is beyond the scope of the current proposal. The committee will consider this comment as time and resources permit.
			Forms NC-230 and NC-230G [HIGH PRIORITY] The purpose of making these records confidential is to prevent unnecessary and involuntary disclosure that would effectively out petitioners. By labeling these forms as a “Decree Changing Name to Conform to Gender Identity,” the court order itself will out the petitioner every time they have to use the document to update a record. We suggest removing any mention of gender identity anywhere on the form. If the form must have a difference from the NC-130 or NC130G other than the confidential denomination at the top, the title of the form could be “Confidential Decree Changing Name.” In the alternative, NC-130 could be renamed as the NC-130/230, and NC-130G could be renamed as the NC-130G/230G and an item with a checkbox could be added that states, “All records in this proceeding, including the index, register of actions, and any other case information available through court systems used to provide the public with electronic access to court records are confidential.”	The committee appreciates the response. The committee discussed the possibility of combining forms NC-130/NC-230 and forms NC-130G/NC-230G, but ultimately determined that it would be confusing for court users to combine nonconfidential forms (NC-130/NC-130G) and confidential forms (NC-230/NC-230G). However, these decree forms may need to be shown to DMV clerks, passport agents, and others, and including the phrase “to Conform to Gender Identity” in the title of forms NC-230 and NC-230G may unnecessarily cause a person’s gender identity to be revealed when they are only changing their name. Therefore, the committee recommends striking “to Conform to Gender Identity” from the titles of these two decree forms and instead recommends

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
				including “(200 Series)” in the titles. However, the committee still recommends retaining “to Conform to Gender Identity” outside of the decree forms to assist self-represented litigants in determining which forms they should fill out.
			[HIGH PRIORITY] Under AB 1084, section 1277.5(a) states, “If a proceeding for a change of name to conform an adult petitioner’s name to their gender identity is commenced by the filing of a petition, the court shall, without hearing and within six weeks of the petition’s filing, enter an order that the change of name is granted, except as provided in Section 1279.5.” We are concerned if there is no other signal to courts, they may not know to implement section 1277.5(a), leaving petitioners in limbo while they wait for their order. To ensure awareness and compliance of the 6-week timeline, we propose: In a box right under the title of the form, “Note: if the decree is for an adult or for a child and all of the child’s parents signed the petition, per Code of Civil Procedure Section 1277.5(a) the court shall without hearing and within six weeks of the petition’s filing, enter an order that the change of name is granted, except as provided in Section 1279.5.”	The committee does not recommend adding the instruction suggested by the commenter to the decree form. Among other things, the information suggested by the commenter would be unusual on a decree form and may not be helpful in warning judicial officers about the six-week time period unless the court reviews the decree form within that window.
			Form NC-300 For the box at the top of page 3, it would probably be clearer to state “Complete the following declarations and sign in the box below only if you are requesting a change of name in this petition.” This would both clarify that all petitioners must sign on the final signature lines at the end of the petition and make it clear that the declaration is related to name changes rather than an item number.	To provide additional clarity to form users, the committee recommends various changes to the signature lines on form NC-300. First, the committee recommends adding an instruction before the signature lines that reads, “All petitioners must sign all items on this page. Petitioners requesting a

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
				change of name (item 5) must additionally sign on page 3.” These changes are intended to simplify these instructions by referring to both changes of name and item 5, the item where a request for a change of name is made. To enhance clarity, the committee also recommends revising the signature instructions on page 3 of form NC-300 to similarly refer to both requesting a name change and to item 5. Second, the committee recommends making the declaration under penalty of perjury required for all petitioners, not just petitioners requesting a change of name. This was required on form NC-300 until 2018. The committee believes that this language was inadvertently removed in 2018 and therefore recommends restoring that item so that all petitioners, not just name change petitioners, must sign it. The committee also recommends this revision because including a penalty of perjury statement is intended to stem fraudulent uses of these forms. The committee further notes that comments provided on form NC-500 endorse the approach of requiring all petitioners,

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Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			not just name change petitioners, to sign this statement.
		Item 5(a)(5) should not ask for “sex (as stated on original birth certificate),” for the reasons discussed above under Form NC-110.	Please see the committee’s response to a similar comment from the ACLU and its co-commenters.
		It would appear more logical to have the attorney sign at the end of the form, rather than in the middle, similarly to how the current version of the form is structured.	To maintain consistency with what is reflected on current form NC-300, the committee recommends reordering the signatures on form NC-300 so that an attorney, if any, signs last.
		Form NC-300-INFO Item 9, instructing incarcerated petitioners to provide proof of service by mail, needs revision as discussed under Form NC-100-INFO.	This comment is beyond the scope of the current proposal. The committee will consider this comment as time and resources permit.
		Form NC-311 This form can be streamlined and simplified. Items 1 and 2(d) can be cut entirely, as they are redundant. Also, forms are best when they ask for a date of birth, rather than an age, as the age may change between the time of signing and filing or between filing and court signatures. This is a common issue that courts will then require that forms be re-signed and filed, especially in courts that have large backlogs and long wait times between filing and granting orders.	These suggestions would likely benefit from public comment. Moreover, age in years exists on a number of other NC forms, including on form NC-110. The committee will consider this comment as time and resources permit.
		NC-311 and NC-330 [PRIORITY] For simplicity and consistency, it would be better to request the date of marriage throughout the forms, rather than the date of issuance of the license. Most individuals do not know the date that their marriage license was issued, nor do they know where to find that information on the certificate. On the other hand, when asked for a date of marriage, most people know that date from memory, and most would	The committee appreciates the response. Most commenters recommend referring to the date of issuance and accordingly the committee recommends that approach.

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Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
		assume that they are being asked for their marriage date, even if the form says “date of issuance.” (1) NC-[312], Item 2a – date of issuance of a marriage license should be changed to date of marriage. (2) NC-330, Item 6 should not be changed as proposed and rather should be left as is. (3) NC-330, Item 13 should be changed from “issued on (date):” to “date of marriage:”	
		NC-330 Under AB 1084, Health and Safety Code section 103430(g) states, “If no service is required on any party pursuant this section, the court shall grant the petition without a hearing if no written objection is timely filed within six weeks of the filing of the petition.” We are concerned if there is no other signal to courts, they may not know to implement section 103430(g), leaving petitioners in limbo while they wait for their order. To ensure awareness and compliance of the 6-week timeline, we propose: In a box right under the title of the form, “Note: Per Health and Safety Code section 103430(g), if no service is required on any party, the court shall grant the petition without a hearing if no written objection is timely filed within six weeks of the filing of the petition.”	The committee does not recommend adding the instruction suggested by the commenter to the decree form. Among other things, the information suggested by the commenter may not be helpful in warning judicial officers about the six-week time period unless the court reviews the decree form within that window.
		Form NC-400/400-INFO Though not our area of expertise, according to the NC-400-INFO instructions, the petitioner’s name is not supposed to be included on the NC-400. It may be helpful to also put the [CONFIDENTIAL] designation on the name line between the attorney name and firm name line at the top to avoid mistakes. Similarly, if the petitioner’s address should not be included at the top of the forms, or if it should be the Safe at Home PO Box, it may be helpful to include that instruction as well.	The committee does not recommend adding [CONFIDENTIAL] because the top of existing form NC-400 already indicates “(leave blank if no attorney).”

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			Item 8 on the NC-400-INFO may want to provide suggested language to add to box 3(b) on the NC-120, like, “Pursuant to CCP 1277(b)(3), this order shall not be published.”	The committee does not recommend this addition because similar information is already included on the information sheet.
			Form NC-500 • [PRIORITY] The additional signatures at the end are confusing, especially because the signatures directly above specify the petitioning adult, and the signatures below do not specify. It’s not clear who is supposed to be signing on the other lines. It would be helpful to move the following language “(Each petitioner must sign this petition in the space provided below or, if additional pages are attached, at the end of the last attachment.) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information in the foregoing petition is true and correct.” up to the area just below the declaration box and above all the signature lines. Signing under penalty of perjury without a name change request is not prohibited and will simplify the process. We would then suggest adding a signature line for the minor child as well in the signatures section for minors 12 and older, so that the third page would appear as follows: Minors ages 12 and older must complete the following declaration, and minors under age 12 may complete the following declaration or may have the declaration signed by an adult petitioning on their behalf. DECLARATION (Minor’s current legal name): _____ declares under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the request for a change in gender to (check one) female male nonbinary is to conform my legal gender to the minor’s gender identity and is not for any fraudulent purpose.	To provide additional clarity, the committee recommends various changes to the signature lines on form NC-500. The committee also recommends revisions to require all petitioners, not just name change petitioners, to sign the declaration under penalty of perjury. This would standardize the approach taken on form NC-500 with the approach recommended for form NC-300. Additionally, including a penalty of perjury statement is intended to stem fraudulent uses of these forms and, as noted by the commenter, this change “is not prohibited and will simplify the process.” Because there would no longer be distinctions between what all petitioners must sign versus what only change of name petitioners must sign, the committee recommends removing the two instruction textboxes that went out for comment near the signature lines on form NC-500. To standardize the signature lines on form NC-500

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			Date: Type or Print Name of Minor (Use Current Legal Name) or for Minors Under 12 Petitioning Adult and Relationship to Minor Signature of Minor (Use Current Legal Name) or for Minors Under 12 Petitioning Adult (Each petitioner and the minor if over the age of 12 must sign this petition in the space provided below or, if additional pages are attached, at the end of the last attachment.) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information in the foregoing petition is true and correct. Date: Type or Print Name of Minor (Use Current Legal Name) Signature of Minor (Use Current Legal Name) Date: Type or Print Name of Petitioning Adult and Relationship to Minor Signature of Petitioning Adult Date: Type or Print Name of Petitioning Adult and Relationship to Minor Signature of Petitioning Adult Date: Type or Print Name of Petitioning Adult and Relationship to Minor Signature of Petitioning Adult Date:	with form NC-300, the committee further recommends adding instructional text indicating that if the petitioner is represented by an attorney, the attorney's signature should follow to prevent the inference that having an attorney is required. The committee does not recommend distinguishing between minors under and over the age of 12 at this time. Health and Safety Code section 103430(b) simply states that this language "may be signed by a minor." Finally, the committee recommends revising the signature lines on form NC-500 to reflect only two petitioning adults or parents.

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			Type or Print Name of Petitioner's Attorney (if any) Signature of Petitioner's Attorney ☐ Add additional signature lines for additional petitioners ☐ Signature of petitioners follows last attachment	
			Alternatively, to help streamline, "and Relationship to Minor" could be left out, since the relationship is listed in item 10(b). If this is updated, then the bottom of page 2 on the NC-500-INFO should be updated accordingly.	The committee recommends omitting "and Relationship to Minor" from the signature lines because that information is now solicited above in form NC-500 due to the incorporation of form NC-110.
			• Item 10(a)(5) should not ask for "sex (as stated on original birth certificate)," for the reasons discussed above under Form NC-110.	Please see the committee's response to a similar comment from the ACLU and its co-commenters.
			Advisory Committee Comment In the Advisory Committee Comment to Sections 2.575 and 2.577 of the California Rules of Court (PDF packet page 15, line 23), a "(" is missing before the period.	The committee has corrected this typographical error.
			Thank you for your careful consideration of these comments. We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback and look forward to continued collaboration with the Judicial Council to ensure these rules and forms are implemented in a manner that is clear, workable, and fully consistent with legislative intent.	The committee appreciates the comments provided.
4.	Steven A. Friday Attorney, Director of Legal Services, The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach	AM	I am a California attorney and have worked for several years providing legal services to LGBTQ+ Californians, including by representing many transgender and nonbinary individuals with name and/or gender marker change petitions and by providing hundreds more with prepared documents for filing petitions in pro per. I submit these additional comments in my individual capacity.	The committee acknowledges the commenter's concurrence with the comments submitted by Equality California and its co-commenters. See the committee's responses to specific comments below.

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			I concur with forthcoming comments from a coalition of leading California LGBTQ+, legal, and civil rights organizations and commend the Council’s work in simplifying and streamlining what, for many petitioners, can feel like confusing, bureaucratic process. I write here to raise additional suggestions for modification.	
			I note that the proposed forms have amended form language to include the phrase “legal name” when distinguishing between current and proposed names (or name at filing and new name). The citing rationale suggests that this change aims to clarify which name petitioners should use in various parts of the forms. I would like to raise that the inclusion of the word “legal” in these revisions contributes no clarification since the word is added to both names. It therefore does not assist in distinguishing which name to use in any particular area. I posit that unnecessary use of the term “legal name” is ill-advised because it undermines the settled principle that common law name changes—those pursued outside of the statutory process assigned to the Superior Courts—are also “legal” and create “legal names.” See Code Civ. Proc., § 1279.5 (“[T]his title does not abrogate the common law right of a person to change his or her name.”); <i>In re Ross</i> (1937) 8 Cal.2d 608, 609 (“The common law recognizes the right to change one's personal name without the necessity of legal proceedings, and the purpose of the statutory procedure is simply to have, wherever possible, a record of the change.”) Viewed in another light, the addition of the word “legal” in these instances is simply redundant. The “legal” quality of the present and proposed names is implied in the (legal) proceeding itself. The Court is presumably only handling legal matters; it need not	The committee does not recommend deleting “legal” as indicated by the commenter because the intent of this addition is to prevent confusion for someone who is already using a different name socially or otherwise.

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			be specifically stated here. This idea is underscored in the fact that the relevant statutes generally refer simply to “change of name,” “petitioner’s name,” “prior name,” and “proposed name.” See Code of Civ. Proc., Part 3, Title 8 (§ 1275 et seq.) and Health & Saf. Code, Div. 102, Part 1, Ch. 11, Art. 7 (§ 103425 et seq.). I would urge the Council to include revisions that clearly distinguish “current”/“at filing” name from “proposed”/“new” name without including the unnecessary term “legal” with each reference to a “name.” As an additional suggestion, while I agree with the council’s effort to clarify what name should be used as the printed or signed name throughout the petition, I believe the proposed amendments may create confusion in some instances and quite possibly, may be improper. As the case law suggests, petitioners may sometimes change their names legally but still require a court order “simply to have...a record of the change.” Ross 8 Cal.2d 609. As an example, many recent petitioners seeking a Real ID have some identity documents with their correct name but require a court order to correct one document that does not exactly match, for whatever reason. In these cases, they would be correct to petition the court using their “current legal name” which is not the “present name” for purposes of the petition; in these cases the “proposed name” is also their “current legal name,” and there would be confusion in directing the petitioner to proceed, and sign, using a name currently on one particular identity document but that is not what would be considered their “current legal name” in any other context. In these situations, forms would almost certainly be rejected unless a petitioner agreed to proceed under, and sign using, a name that may not be their own.	For the reasons raised by the commenter, the committee recommends deleting references to a “legal name” from the signature line but recommends retaining that distinction for one’s printed or typed name.

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			In the case of requiring use of a specific name outside of the “present” and “proposed” names which the petitioner is requesting to be changed will likely have the unintended consequence of easing confusion in some cases but creating confusion in others. Additionally, there is no legal requirement that the petitioner proceed under what, here, may be considered their “current legal name” for purposes of the petition only.” The law does not appear to require that a person proceed using the same name they are requesting be changed. See <i>Weathers v. Superior Court</i> (1976) 54 Cal.App.3d 286, 289 (allowing a married litigant to “maintain an action in court using the name by which she was known prior to marriage” under the reasoning in <i>Ross</i>, 8 Cal.2d 609, that under common law a person may adopt any name they choose and file under the same.) Even where the Judicial Council decides it should still indicate the name a petitioner should use, I strongly urge that the forms should not dictate how a petitioner’s signature should appear. A signature’s validity does not depend on including specific text and can be any mark made in token of approval. In <i>re Manchester's Estate</i> (1917) 174 Cal. 417, 421. Thus, the forms should eliminate any direction of what mark a signer must use as their signature, even if it directs the associated (printed/typed) name to be used.	
			Thank you for considering these comments. I would gladly provide any additional comments or clarification if needed.	The committee appreciates the comments provided.
5.	Orange County Bar Association	A	The proposal appropriately meets the stated purpose.	The committee appreciates the response.

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
	by Shirin Forootan, President		Date of issuance seems appropriate and leaves little room for ambiguity.	The committee agrees with the majority of commenters that the date of issuance is most appropriate for form NC-330.
			We recommend including an “other” box for catch-all objections.	The committee does not recommend a catch-all objection on item 1 of form NC-250/NC-350/NC-550. No other possible objections have been identified by the commenters.
6.	Superior Court of Los Angeles County by Stephanie Kuo	A	The following comments are representative of the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, and do not represent or promote the viewpoint of any particular officer or employee.	The committee appreciates the response.
			In response to the Judicial Council of California’s Invitation to Comment, “W26-03 Civil Practice and Procedure: Name Change and Gender Change Rules and Forms,” the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles (Court), agrees with the proposal and has no objections to the list of forms being adopted/approved/revised/revoked. The updated forms and rules will make the process easier for judicial officers and for lay persons to understand.	
			The Court does not believe there are other objections that would be helpful to list on item 1 of form NC-250/NC-350/NC-550.	
			There are potential cost savings from the proposal. When automation is implemented on July 1, 2026, as ex parte requests will no longer be necessary and therefore, less judicial and staff resources will be used. Two months is sufficient time for implementation.	The committee appreciates the response.
7.		NI	One recurring issue is that petitioners are filing Form NC-100 under the mistaken belief that it is automatically confidential when seeking a	To reflect that the NC-100 form series is not automatically confidential, the

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
	Superior Court of Orange County, Family Law and Juvenile Divisions by Katie Tobias, Operations Analyst		name change to align with their gender identity. Additionally, self-represented litigants may not review the instructions closely and therefore fail to recognize that requests to change an adult's gender and sex identifier, along with a name change, require a different form.	proposed NC-100 form series does not contain a confidential banner. However, because the proposed new NC-200 form series would be automatically confidential on and after July 1, 2026, a confidential banner is included on that form series. Additionally, form NC-100 includes additional information about selecting the correct petition form. Therefore, the committee does not recommend further changes in light of this comment.
			In addition to comments on the proposal as a whole, the advisory committee is interested in comments on the following: <u>Does the proposal appropriately address the stated purpose?</u> Yes, the proposal appropriately addresses the stated purpose; however, there are inconsistencies across the forms in the terminology used. Some forms refer to "current legal name" and "proposed legal name," while others use "legal name when petition was filed" and "new legal name," which may be confusing when completing the forms, in addition to just stating "name."	The committee does not recommend standardizing the terminology used as suggested by the commenter. The phrasing differences that appear between the order on the decree itself ("legal name when petition was filed" and "new legal name") and other uses ("current legal name" and "proposed legal name") are important to emphasize the fact that the decree is no longer proposing a new name but is instead ordering a new legal name.
			<u>The committee received feedback from an attorney that the existing phrasing of item 6 of form NC-330, which uses the phrase "marriage date," is unclear, noting that the issuance of the marriage license and certificate often occurs on a different date than the solemnization of the</u>	The committee appreciates the response. Most commenters recommend referring to the date of

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Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
		<i>marriage. The committee proposes revising item 6 of form NC-330 to instead reflect the date of issuance. Are there any reasons why item 6 of form NC-330 should not reflect the date of issuance?</i> Item 6 of Form NC-330 should reflect the date of issuance, as this approach would be more practical and help avoid potential disputes.	issuance and accordingly the committee recommends that approach.
		<i>Are there any other objections that would be helpful to list on item 1 of form NC-250/NC-350/NC-550?</i> The listed objections appear to be sufficient.	The committee agrees with the commenter and does not recommend including additional objections.
		The advisory committee also seeks comments from courts on the following cost and implementation matters: • <i>Would the proposal provide cost savings? If so, please quantify.</i> No, the proposal does not appear to provide cost savings.	The committee appreciates the response.
		<i>What would the implementation requirements be for courts—for example, training staff (please identify position and expected hours of training), revising processes and procedures (please describe), changing docket codes in case management systems, or modifying case management systems?</i> Implementation will require providing communication to judicial officers and court staff, revising current procedures, conducting court staff training (approximately 1 hour), and updating the case management system.	The committee appreciates the response.
		<i>Would two months from Judicial Council approval of this proposal until its effective date provide sufficient time for implementation?</i> No, Orange County would need at least three months for implementation to allow for adequate planning and execution.	The committee appreciates the difficulties with implementing this proposal on the timeline given. However, SB 59 requires the council to develop rules and forms, as necessary, by July 1, 2026.
		<i>How well would this proposal work in courts of different sizes?</i> Our court is a large court, and this could work for Orange County.	The committee appreciates the response.

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			<i>Does cross-numbering two proposed forms (form NC-221/NC-321/NC-521 and form NC-250/NC-350/NC-550) for use across three varieties of proceedings present any administrative difficulties for courts?</i> No, the cross-numbering does not appear to present any administrative difficulties for courts; however, it may be beneficial to Self Help to identify which forms each proposed form goes to.	The committee appreciates the response. Additionally, committee staff have reached out to staff in the council's Center for Families, Children, and the Courts to discuss potential outreach to Self Help Centers regarding this proposal.
8.	Superior Court of San Diego County by Mike Roddy, Executive Officer	A	Q: Does the proposal appropriately address the stated purpose? A: Yes.	The committee appreciates the responses provided.
			Q: The committee received feedback from an attorney that the existing phrasing of item 6 of form NC-330, which uses the phrase "marriage date," is unclear, noting that the issuance of the marriage license and certificate often occurs on a different date than the solemnization of the marriage. The committee proposes revising item 6 of form NC-330 to instead reflect the date of issuance. Are there any reasons why item 6 of form NC-330 should not reflect the date of issuance? A: No. The proposed change seems appropriate.	The committee agrees with the majority of commenters that the date of issuance is most appropriate for form NC-330.
			Q: Are there any other objections that would be helpful to list on item 1 of form NC-250/NC-350/NC-550? A: Yes, recommend adding objections to a decree changing name.	The committee does not recommend adding objections to a decree changing name to form NC-250/NC-350/NC-550. There are differences between changes of name and changes of name related to gender identity for how objections are received and how

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
				hearings are scheduled. Thus, adding such an objection would not be appropriate on this form.
			Q: Would the proposal provide cost savings? If so, please quantify. A: No.	The committee appreciates the response.
			Q: What would the implementation requirements be for courts for example, training staff (please identify position and expected hours of training), revising processes and procedures (please describe), changing docket codes in case management systems, or modifying case management systems? A: Updating internal procedures, local packets, and updating filings in the court's case management system.	The committee appreciates the response.
			Q: Would two months from Judicial Council approval of this proposal until its effective date provide sufficient time for implementation? A: Yes, provided final versions of the forms are provided at that time.	The committee appreciates the response and notes that SB 59 requires the council to develop rules and forms, as appropriate, by July 1, 2026.
			Q: How well would this proposal work in courts of different sizes? A: It appears that the proposal would work for courts of all sizes.	The committee appreciates the response.

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Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
		Q: Does cross-numbering two proposed forms (form NC-221/NC-321/NC-521 and form NC-250/NC-350/NC-550) for use across three varieties of proceedings present any administrative difficulties for courts? A: No, the cross-numbering will not create any difficulties.	The committee appreciates the response.
		General Query re Forms: Should instructions on how to serve papers describe the requirements instead of simply citing CCP 413.10, 414.10, 415.10, or 415.40 – e.g., “by personal service, first-class mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested ...”? NC-030: Page 1, items 3.b.(2) & (3): Change “103734(c)(1)” to “103437(c)(1)” and change “103734(c)(2)” to “103437(c)(2)” NC-100-INFO: Page 1, item 5, last sentence: After “There is no filing fee for minors in the State’s address confidentiality program (Safe at Home), add: “or for minors and nonminor dependents under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.” Page 2, item 9: Change “are” to “is”: “Note that the declaration on form NC-110 as to whether the petitioner is in jail or under jurisdiction of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation are is only for purposes of determining if service of the petition is required.”	The committee recommends adding descriptions of these code sections to forms NC-100-INFO and NC-200-INFO, to read: “such as in person, or if the person to be served is out of state, by first-class mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested.” The committee has corrected the typographical errors on form NC-030. The committee appreciates the response. The committee does not recommend making revisions involving these minors and nonminor dependents at this time, pending further investigation into other court practices. The committee will consider this comment as time and resources permit.

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Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			Finally, the committee appreciates the response and has corrected the typographical error.
		NC-120: Should there be a proof of service form for a petitioner to file with the court after serving the form NC-120, <i>Order to Show Cause—Change of Name</i> (e.g., on a nonconsenting parent when the person whose name to be changed is a child)?	The committee notes that form NC-121, entitled <i>Proof of Service of Order to Show Cause</i> , would continue to exist within the proposed NC-100 form series.
		NC-150: <i>Comment:</i> The reason given for revoking this form is “the objections listed are no longer relevant to a form series dedicated to name changes that are unrelated to one’s gender identity.” This justification ignores the fact that objections may be submitted to petitions for name change <i>for children</i> that are unrelated to one’s gender identity. (CCP § 1277(a)(4) [nonconsenting parent may object].) As a result, it is still possible a court might need to set a hearing for a CCP § 1277 petition. If form NC-150 is revoked, nonconsenting parents who object to the petition will need to be noticed of the hearing in some way. If form NC-150 is <i>not</i> revoked, the reasons in item 1 (a. through d.) should be deleted.	The committee continues to recommend revoking form NC-150. The committee notes that when the council first adopted form NC-150, the form’s scope was understood to be limited to “use for providing notice of a hearing to petitioners and objectors, should a hearing be needed on a <i>petition for change of name to conform to gender</i> ” (emphasis added). This is because no hearing is set at the time of the filing of the petition and the court only sets a hearing if timely objections are received. See Code of Civil Procedure section 1277.5(b)(2)(D). For additional differences between hearings in the proposed NC-100 form series and hearings in the proposed NC-200 form series, compare item 6 of form NC-100-INFO to item 6 of form NC-200-INFO.

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Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
		NC-200: Left footer: Query – Should citation be changed from CCP § 1275 to CCP § 1277.5? Item 4: Change NC-220G to NC-210G. Item 4.b.(4): Add “or nonminor dependent” after “for minor” (see CCP §§ 1276(e), 1277(c) [nonminor dependents of the juvenile court are 18 to 21 years of age]). Item 4.c.: Query – Should there be an additional space for a third parent’s name and address? (See Fam. Code, § 7612(c).) If yes, the new line (4) should read, “(Only if neither no parent is living).”	The committee does not recommend limiting the cross-reference to Section 1277.5 because Section 1276 applies to all applications for changes of name. The committee instead recommends citing to Sections 1276 et seq. in the footer of both form NC-200 and the accompanying information sheet. The committee has corrected the typographical error noted. Regarding nonminor dependents, the committee appreciates the response and notes that an “other” option exists at item 4b(4) of proposed form NC-200. Regarding the issue of a third parent, the committee recommends including information regarding this scenario on the accompanying information sheet.
		NC-200-INFO: Item 4: Delete “your” before “gender identity” so that the information also applies to adults filing petitions on behalf of their child(ren). Item 5: Query –The NC-100-INFO section on Filing and Filing Fee includes the text, “There is no filing fee for minors in the State’s address confidentiality program (Safe at Home).” Should this sentence be added to form NC-300-INFO? If so, add: “or for minors and nonminor dependents under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.”	The committee recommends deleting “your” as suggested by the commenter from both form NC-200-INFO and from the proposed instructional text that went out for comment on form NC-100 for the reasons suggested by the commenter. The committee does not recommend adding information regarding the Safe at Home program to form NC-300 because form NC-400 does not list that form. The committee

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			Item 7: Delete “your” before “gender identity” so that the information also applies to adults filing petitions on behalf of their child(ren). Item 8: The instructions in item 8.a. state “a copy of the petition and the Order to Show Cause” must be served on the nonconsenting parent, but items 8.b. & 8.c. state “the order or notice” must be served, which implies that only one document needs to be served. Page 2, boxed text at bottom of page: Remove reference to newspapers that may be used to publish the Order to Show Cause (see CCP § 1277.5(b) [publication of OSC not required]).	does not recommend adding information regarding filing fees and minors and nonminor dependents under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court at this time, as explained in the committee’s response to comments from this commenter on form NC-100-INFO. At items 8b and 8c, the committee recommends striking “or notice,” as automatic service of the notice of hearing applies in the NC-100 form series and not in the proposed, new NC-200 form series. See Code of Civil Procedure section 1277(a)(4). The committee also recommends deleting the reference to newspapers on form NC-200-INFO, as publication is not required for changes of name to conform to gender identity.
			NC-210G: Item 1: Query – Should there be space for a second petitioner? (Note: The upper left box implies there can be more than one petitioner.)	To maintain consistency with current form NC-110G, the committee does not recommend revisions to form NC-210G.
			NC-230: Left footer (section 1279 has been repealed): Code Civ. Proc., §§ <u>1277.5</u>, 1278, <u>1278.5</u>, 1279<u>.5</u>	As explained in response to a similar comment on page 96 of the comment chart, the committee recommends revising the footer to instead refer to Code of Civil Procedure section 1276 et seq.

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		NC-230G: Item 2e: Change “his or her” to “the minor’s” to avoid binary pronouns. Left footer (section 1279 has been repealed): Code Civ. Proc., §§ <u>1277.5</u> , 1278, <u>1278.5</u> , 1279.5	As explained in response to a similar comment on page 96 of the comment chart, the committee recommends revising the footer to instead refer to Code of Civil Procedure section 1276 et seq. The committee also recommends the revision suggested by the commenter to promote gender-neutral form language.
		NC-300: Item 5b(2)(ii): Should “name” be deleted because the change requested is for the designation of the petitioner as bride, groom, or no box checked? Or revise to “change of designation”?	The committee does not recommend deleting “name” from this item, as the word “name” is used in statute. See Code of Civil Procedure section 1276(g)(1)(C).
		NC-300-INFO: Page 1, item 4, last sentence: Add “or you are a nonminor dependent of the juvenile court.” Page 1, item 5, at end of paragraph, add: “ <u>Form NC-221/NC-321/NC-521 may be used.</u> ”	The committee does not recommend adding information regarding fee waivers and nonminor dependents, as explained on pages 94-95 of the comment chart. Regarding form NC-221/NC-321/NC-521, the committee recommends including a parenthetical to form NC-300-INFO in the location indicated by the commenter.
		NC-325: Caption, third box down on left: Change “FOR CHANGE OF NAME” to “FOR <u>RECOGNITION OF ADULT’S CHANGE OF GENDER AND SEX IDENTIFIER, NAME CHANGE, AND ISSUANCE OF NEW CERTIFICATES</u> ”	The committee recommends the changes suggested by the commenter and notes that existing form NC-325 facilitates both a change of gender and sex identifier (change to bride, groom,

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Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
		or neither), a change of name, and the issuance of new certificates. NC-330: Item 5: Query – Should “(check one)” be changed to “(check all that apply)”? It may happen rarely, but there could be a request for more than one adult child where both boxes should be checked.	The committee does not recommend this change because the options are mutually exclusive. Item 5a states that each request for a new birth certificate contains the signature of the adult child, while item 5b states that the following adult child or children did not sign.
		NC-400: Item 2: Delete “the” to conform to title of form NC-110. Item 3: Replace “for” with an em dash: <i>Order to Show Cause ~~for~~ Change of Name</i> (form NC-120). Item 7: Insert “Address” before “Confidentiality” to conform to title of form NC-420. Boxed text at bottom of page 1: Item 2 should be amended to add “sexual assault, or human trafficking” and citation to CCP § 1277(b)(2)(D).	The committee recommends deleting “the” from the title of form NC-110, replacing “for” with an em dash in the title of form NC-120, and inserting “Address” before “Confidentiality” in the title of form NC-420 to conform to the actual titles of these forms. In the text box at the bottom of page 1, the committee recommends adding “sexual assault” to conform to the language of Code of Civil Procedure section 1277(b)(2)(D).
		NC-400-INFO: Propose that the first paragraph under item 8 regarding what “most people” must do be removed. Since the intent of this form is to provide information for individuals seeking a name change under Safe at Home, the proposed language may cause confusion.	The committee does not recommend removing this language because the proposed language also points to form NC-100-INFO for additional information. However, the committee recommends moving the paragraph

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			Page 2, item 10c: Insert period at end of sentence. Page 2, item 10, last paragraph, instructs “Attach Confidential Cover Sheet (form NC-400) to the application. However, the instructions on form NC-400 instruct, “This Confidential Cover Sheet must be attached to the first page of the petition and to any other documents filed in this proceeding.” Query: Should the NC-400 be on top of the documents inside the sealed envelope or on top of (and outside) the sealed envelope? Does a completed NC-400 need to be attached on top of each document inside the envelope? Page 2, item 11b: Add “sexual assault” and “human trafficking” (see CCP § 1277(b)(2)).	regarding publication and Safe at Home in closer proximity to the text regarding what “most people” must do to prevent confusion. The committee also recommends adding a period as indicated by the commenter. Rule 2.575(d) describes the general requirements surrounding this cover sheet, however, the rule does not specify whether form NC-400 should exist inside or on top of the sealed envelope. The existing rule does, however, specify that the cover sheet should be attached “to the front of the petition for name change and every other document filed in the proceedings.” The committee will consider whether this rule needs further amendments as time and resources permit. Finally, the committee recommends adding “sexual assault” but not “human trafficking” to item 11b of form NC-400-INFO (see Code of Civil Procedure section 1278(b)).
			NC-500: Page 1, item 5: Add “(s)” – Petitioner(s) request a decree ...	The committee does not recommend the revision suggested by the commenter. Judicial Council forms

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Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
		NC-500-INFO: Page 2, item 4, 6th bullet point: “In item 9, check the box to request that the court order that a new birth certificate be issued ...” Page 2, item 5: Query – Isn’t the confidential cover sheet only for use by petitioners in the Safe at Home program?... File with the clerk of the court the original petition and any attachments or orders to show cause required on page 1 of this information sheet with the confidential cover sheet and obtain two file-endorsed copies of the petition and any order to show cause. A filing fee will be charged unless you qualify the petitioner qualifies for a fee waiver or is under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. If you want to apply for a fee waiver, see <i>Request to Waive Court Fees</i> (form FW-001) and <i>Information Sheet on Waiver of Superior Court Fees and Costs</i> (form FW-001-INFO). Page 3, item 6: (Form NC-221/NC-321/NC-521 may be used.)	avoid use of parentheticals (e.g., petitioner(s)) and similar constructions to present a singular/plural option. The committee recommends inserting “to” to correct this grammatical error. The committee also recommends correcting an error on the form that circulated for comment by replacing “confidential cover sheet” with “<i>Civil Case Cover Sheet</i>.” The committee does not recommend changing “you qualify” to “the petitioner qualifies” (see similar phrasing at form NC-100-INFO) and, as explained in the committee’s response to comments from this commenter on form NC-100-INFO, does not recommend adding information about fee waivers and persons under the jurisdiction of juvenile court. The committee does, however, recommend changes to item 6 on page 4 of the form to correctly reflect proposed form NC-221/NC-321/NC-521.

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			NC-510G: Page 1, box at top of page: For consistency with NC-520 and NC-530: FOR CHANGE OF GENDER (Minor). Page 1, left footer: Change “§ 103430.5” to “§ 103430” NC-520: Page 1, items 1b & 2b: Query – Should the following sentence be added to these paragraphs? “ <u>Objections based solely on concerns over the minor’s actual gender identity or gender assigned at birth shall not constitute good cause.</u> ” No additional Comments.	The committee proposes adding (Minor) as indicated by the commenter to maintain consistency with forms NC-520 and NC-530. The committee has corrected the Code section citation to “103430.” The committee recommends adding language to form NC-520 that describes the objections that do not constitute good cause under Code of Civil Procedure section 1277.5(b) and Health and Safety Code section 103430(h). This is consistent with the approach taken on existing form NC-125.