

Changing Name

Changing your name is easy to do in the UK, and there are 2 ways to do it:

These being:

Statutory Declaration

or by Deed Poll.

Statutory Declaration is a method whereby you effectively sign a document saying that you hereby wish to be called [new name] and relinquish your old name and request that everyone calls you your new name forever in front of a solicitor and the solicitor signs it too.

There is a special way in which this document needs to be worded in order for it to be valid. A working example of a Statutory Declaration can be further down

The price of having a Stat Dec signed in front of a solicitor is usually around £5, and usually you can get notarised copies for about £2 each.

At the solicitor's office you will be asked swear to the truth of the document, then to sign in the appropriate space your old name (there are variations of this requirement), and sign your new name and any appropriate title. The solicitor will also sign the document and s/he will add the address of the location where the affidavit was sworn. From that moment on, the new name applies and the old one does not, other than historically. Were you to continue to use your old name(s) except with reference to the period prior to the date of the affidavit, you could be guilty of fraud.

It's important you get a number of notarised copies as these are official legally binding copies of the document and are required for purposes such as passport applications etc. The solicitor will sign and stamp these signifying them as binding.

A more detailed list can be found at the end of this document.

STATUTORY DECLARATION

I _____ of "address" , do solemnly and sincerely declare
that: -

1. I absolutely and entirely renounce relinquish and abandon the use of my former name _____ and will assume adopt and determine to take and use from the day hereof the name of _____ substitution of my former name of .

2. I shall at all times hereafter in all records deeds and documents and other writing and in all actions and proceedings as well as in all dealing and transactions and on all occasions whatsoever use and subscribe the said name of _____ for my name in substitution of my former name _____ so relinquish as aforesaid to the intent that I may hereafter be called known or distinguished not by the former name of _____ but by the name of _____ .

3. I authorise and require all persons at all times to designate describe and address me by my adopted name of _____ .

AND I MAKE this solemn Declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provision of the Statutory Declarations Act 1835

DECLARED by
(Formerly _____)
_____)
This _____ Day _____ 2004 _____)
_____)
_____)
at _____)
_____)
_____)
Before me, _____)
_____)

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Changing name by Deed Poll can be somewhat more expensive, but is considered to be more binding in some ways which is beyond my scope of legal knowledge. To change ones name by deed poll the best place to go is to talk to a solicitor. Don't be afraid to shop around for a good price if you're strapped for cash.

Suggested people/organisations to inform upon change of name

- Employer
- Inland Revenue for tax and National Insurance records
- Doctor
- Dentist
- Driver & Vehicle Licensing Authority
 - o Driving Licence
 - o Vehicle registration documents
- Passport Office (to apply for a new passport)
- Bank/Building Society
- Credit Card Companies
- Finance/Loan companies
- Investment Companies
- Companies you have shares in
- Utility Companies
- Telephone Companies
- Trade Union, Professional institutes and bodies
- Local Authority
 - o Council Tax
 - o Register of electors
- HM Land Registry (if you own land or property)
- TV Licensing Office
- Pension Company
- Insurance companies
- Mail-order companies
- Motoring organisations