

## How to change your name in Whatcom County

The most updated information will be found on this webpage:

<https://www.whatcomcounty.us/445/Name-Changes>

If you're 18 or older:

- Go to the Whatcom County Courthouse (311 Grand Avenue) and go to the District Court office on the fourth floor
  - Make sure you bring photo ID
- Fill out the Petition for Name Change (PDF)
  - You can print this out ahead of time or pick one up at the District Court and fill it out there
- At the same visit, ask for a Fee Waiver Form. This document (if approved) reduces the fee by up to 100%. Many young people qualify for the reduced fee and it doesn't hurt to apply.
- Leave these forms with the district court. They will give you a phone number to call to find out whether your petition was approved, usually within a few days.
- If the petition was approved, you'll need to go back to the district court with payment in order to schedule your court date for the legal name change
  - You will also find out at this time if your Fee Waiver Request was approved.  
The court accepts money orders, cashier's checks or cash as payment.
- Legal name changes occur on Fridays at 1:30 pm, you can have friends, family, or a QYS advocate attend and join you for the occasion!

If you're younger than 18:

- You will have a similar process however a parent or legal guardian needs to attend with you and approve the name change. Check out the district court website for more details.