

House Engrossed

name change petition; sex offenders

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

HOUSE BILL 2223

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 12-601, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO CHANGE OF NAME.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 12-601, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 12-601. Application; venue; judgment; sealing of record

5 A. A person who desires to change the person's name and to adopt
6 another name may file an application in the superior court in the county
7 of the person's residence, setting forth reasons for the change of name
8 and the name the person wishes to adopt. The court may enter judgment
9 that the adopted name of the party be substituted for the original name.
10 The court shall consider the criteria under subsection C of this section
11 in determining whether to enter judgment that the adopted name of the
12 party be substituted for the original name.

13 B. The parent, guardian ad litem or next friend of a minor may file
14 an application for change of the name of the minor in the county of the
15 minor's residence. The court shall consider the best interests of the
16 minor and the criteria that apply to the minor under subsection C of this
17 section in determining whether to enter judgment that the name of the
18 minor be changed.

19 C. A person who files an application for change of name shall
20 indicate under penalty of perjury:

21 1. If the person has been convicted of a felony.

22 2. If felony charges are pending in any jurisdiction against the
23 person for any offense under title 13, chapter 18, 20, 21, 22, 23 or 27 or
24 any other offense involving false statements or misrepresentations about
25 the person's identity.

26 3. If the person is knowingly changing the person's name to that of
27 another individual for the purpose of committing or furthering the
28 commission of any offense under title 13, chapter 18, 20, 21, 22, 23 or 27
29 or any other offense involving false statements.

30 4. The person is making the application solely for the best
31 interest of the person.

32 5. The person acknowledges that the change of name will not release
33 the person from any obligations incurred or harm any rights of property or
34 actions in the original name.

35 6. IF THE PERSON HAS BEEN CONVICTED IN ANY STATE OF AN OFFENSE FOR
36 WHICH THE PERSON IS REQUIRED TO REGISTER AS A SEX OFFENDER.

37 7. IF THE PERSON HAS SERVED A COPY OF THE APPLICATION WITH THE
38 PROSECUTING AGENCY OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE PERSON WAS CONVICTED
39 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION D OF THIS SECTION.

40 D. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a victim as defined in
41 section 13-4401 or a prosecutor has standing to contest any legal name
42 change at any time before the entry of judgment or up to one year after
43 entry of judgment. IF THE PERSON WHO FILES AN APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF
44 NAME WAS CONVICTED IN THIS STATE, THE PERSON SHALL SERVE A COPY OF THE
45 APPLICATION WITH THE PROSECUTING AGENCY OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE PERSON

1 WAS CONVICTED. IF THE VICTIM HAS REQUESTED POSTCONVICTION NOTICE, THE
2 PROSECUTING AGENCY OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE PERSON WAS CONVICTED SHALL
3 NOTIFY THE VICTIM OF THE APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF NAME AND THE VICTIM'S
4 RIGHT TO CONTEST THE NAME CHANGE. IF THE PERSON WHO FILES AN APPLICATION
5 FOR CHANGE OF NAME WAS CONVICTED IN ANOTHER STATE, THE PERSON SHALL SERVE
6 A COPY OF THE APPLICATION WITH THE PROSECUTING AGENCY IN THE JURISDICTION
7 IN WHICH THE PERSON WAS CONVICTED AND THE COUNTY ATTORNEY IN THE COUNTY IN
8 WHICH THE PERSON FILED THE APPLICATION.

9 E. On entering a conviction for an offense under title 13, chapter
10 18, 20, 21, 22, 23 or 27 or any other offense involving false statements
11 or misrepresentations about the person's identity, the superior court may
12 enter an order setting aside a change of name judgment or deny any pending
13 application.

14 F. On request of a person who files an application for a change of
15 name, the court may seal the change of name application and judgment. The
16 information in the application and judgment shall not be disclosed and is
17 not a public record. A person who obtained a judgment on or after January
18 1, 2009 may request that the court seal the application and judgment
19 pursuant to this subsection. For the purposes of this subsection,
20 "person" means a person who is protected under an order of protection or
21 injunction against harassment or a person who is the victim of an offense
22 involving stalking as prescribed in section 13-2923 or an offense
23 committed in another jurisdiction that if committed in this state would be
24 a violation or attempted violation of section 13-2923.

25 G. IF THE COURT GRANTS AN APPLICATION FOR A CHANGE OF NAME FOR A
26 PERSON WHO IS REQUIRED TO REGISTER PURSUANT TO SECTION 13-3821, THE COURT
27 SHALL ORDER THE PERSON TO REGISTER UNDER THE PERSON'S NEW NAME AND TO USE
28 THE PERSON'S PRIOR NAME AS AN ALIAS. A COPY OF THE ORDER SHALL BE
29 PROVIDED TO THE SHERIFF OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE PERSON CURRENTLY
30 RESIDES.