

3.

These are the current names, years of birth, and proposed new names of the child(ren) for whom the name change is sought:

Current Name of Child	Year of Birth	Requested Name of Child

4.

[Check only one of the following.]

- The minor child(ren) live with the Petitioner in _____ County, Georgia.
- The minor child(ren) do not live with the Petitioner. They live with _____
in _____ County, Georgia.

5.

The reasons for such change in name(s) are as follows:

6.

The parents of said child(ren) are:

Mother's Name

Address

Father's Name

Address

7.

(Mark one of the following)

- (A) I have served the other parent or guardian by personal service as required by OCGA § 19-12-1 (f) at (*address*) _____ by having the sheriff serve him or her at this address.

OR

- (B) The other parent or guardian signed an Acknowledgment of Service.

OR

- (C) I do not know the whereabouts of the minor child's _____ (father or mother or guardian), and within seven (7) days of filing this petition, I will serve him/her by publication in the newspaper for once a week for four weeks, and I will file the publisher's affidavit at the end of the four weeks.

OR

- (D) The child's other parent lives in another state, but I know the address. Service of the petition shall be made by certified mail or statutory overnight delivery.

8.

(Mark the appropriate choice and only mark either A, B or C)

- The written consent of the other parent to change the name of the minor child(ren) is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

OR

- (B) The other parent is deceased, and I have attached the death certificate to the petition as Exhibit A.

OR

- (C) The consent is not needed because I allege that the other parent has abandoned the child as defined in O.C.G.A. § 15-11-2 by showing an intent to forgo parental duties or relinquish parental claims by doing the following: *(mark all that apply)*
 - Failure, for a period of at least six months, to communicate meaningfully with a child;
 - Failure, for a period of at least six months, to maintain regular visitation with a child;
 - Leaving a child with another person without provision for his or her support for a period of at least six months;
 - Failure, for a period of at least six months, to participate in any court-ordered plan or program designed to reunite a child's parent, guardian, or legal custodian with his or her child;
 - Being absent from the home of his or her child for a period of time that creates a substantial risk of serious harm to a child left in the home;
 - Failure to respond, for a period of at least six months, to a notice of pending DFCS proceedings; or
 - Any other conduct indicating an intent to forgo parental duties or relinquish parental claims by doing the following:

WHEREFORE, Petitioner respectfully prays for the following:

(a) That the name(s) of the minor child(ren) be changed to the name(s) shown in Paragraph 3 of the Petition.

AND (*check either b, c, or d*):

(b) That the sheriff's department personally serve the:

Mother Father Guardian

(c) That the

Mother Father Guardian

be served by certified mail because they are outside the State of Georgia;

(d) Since the address is unknown, that the court order service by publication for the Mother Father Guardian.

Respectfully submitted, this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Petitioner *pro se* (sign above)

Petitioner Name (*Print*)

Address

Phone Number