

## **Additional Information on Names Changes**

### **In Probate Court there are 3 ways to change your name**

1. A Name Change action
2. A Birth Correction
3. An Adoption

### **A “Name Change” in Probate Court accomplishes the following:**

A name change changes the Applicant’s current legal name.

That change becomes effective on the date of the hearing.

It is not retroactive. It does not in any way change the name from the past. It simply changes the name from the date of the hearing into the future.

See Greene County Probate Court website under “Name Change” for a checklist and forms.

### **A “Birth Correction” in Probate Court accomplishes the following:**

If your birth certificate has an error, which was made at the time the birth certificate was originally issued, it is possible that you can do a “birth correction action” to fix that error. However, this action will only correct an actual error on the birth certificate. It cannot be used make desired changes to the spelling of a name.

See Greene County Probate Court website under “Birth Records/Paternity” for a checklist and forms.

### **If you are getting adopted, you can change your name at the time of the adoption. This is done through the adoption action.**

See Greene County Probate Court website under “Adoption” for a checklist and forms.

### **Other options:**

If you are trying to accomplish something other than what is listed above, you may want to contact one of the following agencies and see if there is anything that they can do for you.

- The County where you got your marriage license
- The Department of Vital Statistics in the state where you were born
- The US embassy if you were either born or married outside of the United States
- Your local Social Security office
- Military base if you were involved in the armed services
- If none of the above can help, contact an attorney and have them look into other legal means to correct the problem you are having.