

## **NAME CHANGE OF MINOR**

### A. Consent by minor 14 years of age or older

1. A minor 14 years of age or older must consent to his/her name change, in writing, and in the presence of the Court.
2. The written consent must be filed with the Court before an order changing the name of the minor is entered.

### B. Preference of minor under 14 years of age

1. A minor under 14 years of age must be consulted by the Court as to a change in his/her name, if the Court considers the minor to be of sufficient age to express a preference.
2. If a minor under age 14 is permitted to express his/her preference, the minor's wishes must be considered by the Court.

### C. Noncustodial parent

1. The Court may change the name of a minor of a noncustodial parent if:
  - a. notice of hearing is given to the noncustodial parent
  - b. the custodial parent consents
  - c. the noncustodial parent, having the ability to support, or assist in supporting the child, has failed or neglected to provide regular and substantial support for the child, or has failed to substantially comply with a child support order, for at least 2 years before the petition is filed, AND
  - d. the noncustodial parent, having the ability to visit, contact or communicate with the child, has regularly and substantially failed or neglected to visit, contact or communicate with the child for at least 2 years before the petition is filed.