How do I assume or unassume a married name?

Getting married? You don’t have to change your last name legally – which means changing your birth certificate. You can simply assume your spouse’s last name, or combine both of your last names into a hyphenated last name.

You can use your marriage certificate to make the change on all your other identification (driver’s licence, health card, passport, social insurance number (SIN) card, banks, etc.).

Most people choose this option because:

- It is free
- It is easily reversible
- There is no long application process

The benefit of assuming a married name instead of doing a legal name change is that it does not change your last name on your birth certificate.

Later, if you wish to use your own last name again, it is already on your birth certificate and you won’t have to pay to change it back.

Fees: No fee required.

Service delivery time:
You will be given a transaction record when you go to your nearest Service Ontario Centre. You can continue to use your existing ID until your new health card and driver’s licence arrive in the mail about 4 to 6 weeks later.

How do I apply to assume my partner’s name?
You can make your name changes in person at your local Service Ontario Centre.

What do I need to bring to make ID changes?

- To Assume: Your marriage certificate.
- To unassume: Your birth certificate and your marriage certificate or divorce certificate.
- Your current Ontario photo ID (health card and /or driver’s licence).
- If you do not already have a photo health card, you must also bring three original documents to prove citizenship, Ontario residence and identity.
- A Change of Information form.

Further information:

Please see the frequently asked questions or contact Service Ontario’s INFO line at 1-800-664-8988.

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