

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHANGE OF NAME OF A MINOR Instructions for Completing DOM REL 62

### Introduction:

The minor must be a resident of the County in which you are filing for a name change.

You may not use these forms to change a name in connection with an adoption.

For more information, read Maryland Rule 15-901

*NOTE: Changing the name of a child will not change an existing child support obligation.*

### General:

**Child Less Than 1 Year Old:** If the child is less than one-year old, you may be able to change the child's name without a court order. Read MD. HEALTH GEN. CODE ANN. § 4-214.

**Child Aged 1 Year or Older:** To change a child's name you, as his/her parent or guardian, may file a Petition for Change of Name. Ordinarily the court will look at whether all parents, guardians and custodians, as well as the child, are in agreement with the name change. The request to have the name changed must also be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which you are filing the Petition. You will need to check with the Clerk of Court regarding publication of the Notice. In some jurisdictions publication arrangements are the responsibility of the party asking for publication. In other jurisdictions the Clerk of Court will arrange to have the Notice published. After the notice has been published, other persons are given the opportunity to object. If someone objects, they must file this objection and serve you a copy. You will have 15 days to respond to the objection by filing a written response with the Court.

### Instructions:

#### ➤ **STEP 1 – Securing Consent of Parents, Guardians or Custodians**

It is usually preferable to submit the Petition with signed consents from all parents, guardians and custodians. Before preparing the Petition for Change of Name, contact each parent, guardian, or custodian. Ask that person to sign a Consent form. File this consent form with your petition.