

## DECLARATION OF MIDDLE NAME AND LAST NAME AFTER MARRIAGE

(1) Section 574-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, relating to declared middle and last name after marriage, was amended effective July 1, 1993

Upon marriage, each of the parties to a marriage shall declare the middle and last names each will use as a married person.

The last name or names chosen may be any middle or last name legally used at any time, past or present, by either spouse, or any combination of such names, which may, but need not, be separated by a hyphen.

The middle name or names chosen may be any middle or last name legally used at any time, past or present, by either spouse, or any combination of such names, which may, but need not, be separated by a hyphen.”

(2) The term “legally used at any time, past or present, by either spouse” means any middle and last name(s) recorded on legal documents pertaining to the couple, including the following:

- (a) Name on a person’s certificate on file in the health Department or a birth recording agency.
- (b) Name on a legal change of name order, decree or court order of any state.
- (c) Name on a person’s original birth certificate before adoption.
- (d) Name restored to a person by a divorce or annulment decree.
- (e) Name declared on a previous marriage certificate.
- (f) Name on naturalization certificate.

Be sure that the names chosen are correct. Any changes to declared names will require a legal change of name decree or court order.

### COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Can a divorced woman who did not resume using her maiden or family surname, declare it as a middle name in her next marriage?

A. YES, her maiden or family name appears on her birth certificate, which is a legal document.

Q. Can one of the combination middle names or one of combination surnames of a person be dropped when declaring a middle or last name?

A. YES.

Q. Can a person drop an unwanted middle name, by not declaring a middle name at all?

A: NO, unless the person or the spouse had no legally used middle in the past or present.

Q. Can the bride drop her previous husband’s last name which formed a combination with her surname when she remarries?

A. YES, she can drop his last name and form a new combination made of her surname and the new husband’s last name.

Q. Can the bride and groom interchange their middle names as their declared middle name?

A. YES.

Q. Can diacritical marks be added to middle or last names?

A. NO, only if shown on birth certificate as part of legal name.

Q. Can a person use a shortened version of a middle name, an initial, a nickname, or a name not on his/her birth certificate, as his/her declared middle name?

A. NO. It constitutes a legal change of name.

Q. Can a middle name be used as a last name?

A. YES.