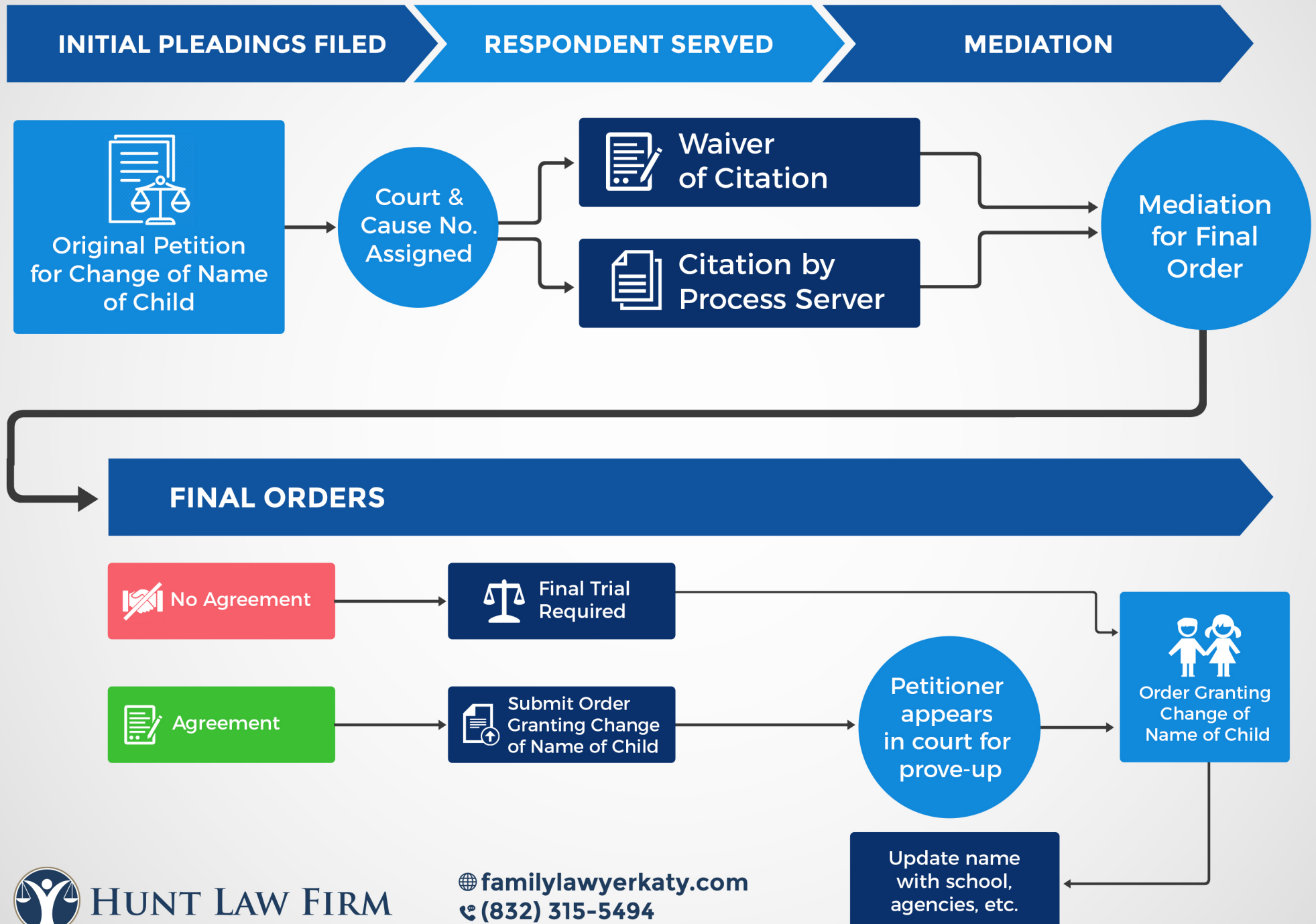


TEXAS CONTESTED NAME CHANGE FOR A CHILD



HUNT LAW FIRM

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STEPS IN A TEXAS CONTESTED NAME CHANGE FOR A CHILD WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW



DO I NEED AN ORDER TO CHANGE MY CHILD'S NAME?

Generally, yes. This may not apply when there are minor spelling errors on the birth certificate, which can sometimes be fixed administratively.



WHO CAN FILE A REQUEST TO CHANGE THE CHILD'S NAME?

Generally, the following have standing: either parent of the child, the child's managing conservator, or the child's legal guardian.



DO I NEED TO NOTIFY THE OTHER PARENT IF HE ISN'T ON THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE?

Yes. Regardless of who is on the birth certificate, the other parent must be formally served. If the other parent agrees to the name change, then they can waive service and agree to the final order.



WHAT IF MY CHILD'S OTHER PARENT IS DECEASED?

You must notify the court of this in your Original Petition and may need to provide a copy of the death certificate.



IS MY CHILD'S CONSENT REQUIRED?

Generally, your child must consent in writing to the name change if age 10 years old or older.



ORIGINAL PETITION

We will draft the Original Petition, which is the request to the court for your child's name change. Once drafted and approved by you, this document will be filed with the court.



COURT AND CAUSE NUMBER ASSIGNED

The district clerk will assign your case to a specific court and provide a unique cause number.



SERVICE BY PROCESS SERVER

The other parent must receive formal notice by process server that you are seeking to change your child's name.



WAIVER OF CITATION

If the other parent agrees with the name change, we can draft a waiver of formal service to be notarized and filed with the court.



MEDIATION FOR FINAL ORDER

Mediation may be necessary so an agreement can be attempted prior to trial. Mediation is more cost effective than a contested trial and is required by most courts prior to a final trial.



FINAL TRIAL

If the name change is still contested on the court date, the judge will conduct a trial before making a ruling. At trial, we will present your case on why the name change is in the child's best interest.



FINAL ORDER

Once the judge approves the name change, the court will sign the Order Granting Change of Name of Child. We will get you one or more certified copies which you can then use to change the child's name with his or her school, SSA, etc.



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