

## STEPS IN A CONTESTED NAME CHANGE FOR CHILD

### DRAFT THE PLEADINGS

We will draft an Original Petition in which we make our request for your child's name change. We will include in the petition the reason the name change is being requested and, if your child is old enough, your child's signature consenting to the name change. Once drafted, we will file the pleadings with the court.

### SERVICE BY PROCESS SERVER

The other parent must receive notice that you are seeking to change your child's name. Our process server will serve the parent with the necessary documents. We will pay the process server fee from your retainer.

### RESPONDING TO THE OTHER PARENT'S OBJECTION

Once the other parent has been served with our petition, they will have an opportunity to respond to our petition by filing an Original Answer if they do not agree to the name change. Ultimately, the decision on whether to grant or deny the name change will be up to the court who will determine whether or not the name change is 1) in the best interest of the child, and 2) in the best interest of society. We will confer with the opposing party to see if an agreement can be reached before the court date.

### COURT APPEARANCE AND FINAL ORDER

If the name change is still contested on the court date, the judge will conduct a hearing before making their ruling. During the hearing, we will present our case on why the name change is in the child's best interest. The opposing party will have an opportunity to argue why it is not in the child's best interest. If the judge grants the name change, we will draft the Order Granting Name Change and present it to the court to sign. Once the judge signs the order, you will be able to use that order to change your child's name on their birth certificate, driver's license, and Social Security card.

