

## Name Act

1. Promulgated by Presidential Decree on March 7, 1953.
2. Amendments to Article 6 promulgated by Presidential Decree on December 1, 1965.
3. Amendments to Article 6 promulgated by Presidential Decree on November 18, 1983.
4. Amendments to Article 1 promulgated by Presidential Decree on January 20, 1995.
5. Amendments promulgated by Presidential Decree Hua-zong-(1)-yi-zi No. 9000118950 on June 20, 2001.
6. Promulgated by Executive Yuan Order Tai-nei-zi No. 059674 on October 5, 2001, and entered into force on October 15, 2001.
7. Amendments promulgated by Presidential Decree Hua-zong-(1)-yi-zi No. 09200116230 on June 25, 2003.
8. Amendments to Article 6 and Article 12 promulgated by Presidential Decree Hua-zong-(1)-yi-zi No. 09600174101 on December 26, 2007.
9. Amendments to Article 2 promulgated by Presidential Decree Hua-Zong-(1)-yi-zi No. 09800166491 on July 8, 2009.
10. Amendments to all 17 Articles promulgated by Presidential Decree Hua-zong-(1)-yi-zi No. 10400058191 on May 20, 2015.

Article 1           The legal name of a citizen of the Republic of China (ROC) shall be that entered in the household registration system; a citizen may have just one legal name.

The name of a Taiwan indigenous person or member of another ethnic minority may be registered in accordance with his/her culture and customs. If

the Han Chinese name of an indigenous person has already been registered, he/she may apply to restore his/her ethnic name. Following a person's legal restoration of an ethnic name, he/she may reapply to restore his/her original Han Chinese name. Each type of restoration is allowed one time only.

If an ROC national marries a foreign national or stateless person, the spouse and all children, if any, must take a Chinese-language name that conforms to ROC practices. This shall also apply to a foreign national or stateless person applying for naturalization.

Those who have taken a Chinese-language name in accordance with the preceding paragraph may apply to alter the name once.

Persons applying to restore ROC nationality must take the Chinese-language name used prior to their renouncement of ROC nationality.

Article 2           When applying for household registration, naturalization or a passport, the applicant must supply a name using Chinese characters found in the Chinese etymological dictionary *Ci Yuan*, Chinese encyclopedic dictionary *Ci Hai*, *Kangxi Dictionary*, or *Guoyu Cidian* compiled by the Ministry of Education.

Characters not found in the above dictionaries or other Standard Mandarin dictionaries may not be used.

Article 3           Chinese-language names shall take the following form:

1. Surname first, given name second; should an applicant not have a surname, just a given name may be registered.
2. No space or symbol may be put between the surname and given name.

Article 4           The ethnic name or Han Chinese name of a Taiwan indigenous person or other ethnic minority may be listed in Romanized form together with the name in Chinese characters and is not subject to the restriction in paragraph 1 of Article 1.

When taking a Chinese-language name during the naturalization process, a foreign national or a stateless person may have his/her original foreign name registered in Romanized form alongside the name in Chinese characters, and is not subject to the restriction in paragraph 1 of Article 1.

Article 5           In all legal matters that require the use of a name, a person's legal name must be used.

Article 6           A person's legal name shall be used on diplomas, work experience documents, licenses, permits, and other such documents or the document shall be deemed invalid.

Article 7           A person's legal name shall be used for the registration of the acquisition, creation, loss, alteration, or deposit of an asset or the transaction shall not be processed.

Article 8           A person who meets one of the following requirements may apply to alter his/her surname:

1. The applicant's paternity has been acknowledged by the natural father or the acknowledgement thereof has been revoked;
2. The applicant has been adopted or his/her adoption has been annulled or terminated;

3. The applicant is a Taiwan indigenous person or other ethnic minority member and the adopted Han Chinese surname leads to misapprehension of the family name;
4. The transliteration is too long; or
5. The applicant's surname has been changed in accordance with other laws or regulations.

After marrying, a person may apply to take the spouse's surname or reinstate his/her original surname. As for the latter, a person may apply to reinstate his/her original surname only once per marriage.

Article 9            A person meeting one of the following conditions may apply to change his/her given name:

1. The applicant is an employee of a public or private sector enterprise, entity (organization), association or school or has studied at a school in which another person has the exact same surname and given name;
2. The applicant has the exact same given name as an elder relative within three degrees of kinship;
3. The applicant has the exact same surname and given name as another person who has also been registered at a household registry in the same special municipality, county or city for more than six months;
4. The applicant has the exact same surname and given name as a criminal suspect for whom an arrest warrant has been issued;
5. The applicant's paternity has been acknowledged by the natural father or the acknowledgement thereof has been revoked, or the applicant has been adopted or his/her adoption has been annulled or terminated; or
6. The applicant's given name is unflattering or has an excessively long

Romanized form, or there are other special considerations.

People applying to alter their given name in accordance with subparagraph 6 of the preceding paragraph may be granted this privilege only three times. However, in the second instance, the applicant must have already reached the age of majority.

Article 10        A person who meets one of the following requirements may apply to change his/her surname and given name:

1. The applicant's existing name has an excessively long or incorrect Romanized form;
2. The applicant has entered or left a religious order; or
3. The applicant's duties as a government employee necessitate a name change.

Article 11        A person who was not using his/her legal name as stipulated in Articles 6 and 7 before the Act took effect shall apply to change the name used at his/her original public or private sector enterprise, entity (organization), association or school to his/her legal name. In the event that the person did not use his/her real name as stipulated in Article 6, he/she may apply for a change of legal name at his/her household registration office according to his/her name on a diploma, employment certificate, license or other form of identification.

A name change as described in the preceding paragraph may be granted only once.

Article 12        In the event that a person changes his/her surname, given

name or full name, the household registration office shall, in accordance with its authority, update the household registration records of the person's spouse and child(ren), if any, with respect to the listing of his/her new name, and notify them of the update.

Article 13 To change a surname, attach the spouse's surname, restore one's original surname, change a given or full name, or correct a legal name under the provisions of this Act, the applicant should be the concerned party or his/her legal representative. To change a surname due to an adoption or termination thereof, the person initiating the adoption or termination thereof may serve as the applicant.

Article 14 Unless otherwise stipulated by other laws or regulations, following application, a change of surname, attachment of the spouse's surname, restoration of an original surname, change of a given name, change of a full name, or correction of a legal name under the provisions of this Act shall enter into effect from the date that the name is changed or corrected at the household registration office.

Article 15 Under the following circumstances a person may not apply to change his/her surname, given name or full name:

1. There is a warrant for his/her arrest or the person is in custody;
2. The person has been sentenced to a prison term involving forced labor; or
3. The person has been sentenced to a prison term and has not been declared eligible for probation or allowed to commute the sentence to a fine or community service. However, for crimes committed due to negligence, the

aforesaid limitations shall not apply.

A person referred to in subparagraphs 2 and 3 above may not apply to change his/her surname, given name or full name from the date of sentencing until three years after his/her sentence has been served.

Article 16            Enforcement rules of this Act shall be enacted by the Ministry of the Interior.

Article 17            This Act shall enter into force from the date of promulgation.