

NOTICE TO THE BAR

ADULT NAME CHANGES – STATUS OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS IN eCOURTS

The Supreme Court in its July 30, 2021 Omnibus Rule Amendment [Order](#) amended Rule 1:38-3 so as to exclude from public access all records relating to name change applications, effective September 1, 2021.

The Judiciary is in the process of enhancing its eCourts electronic filing system so as to automatically shield from public access all name change applications filed on or after September 1, 2021. Those technological enhancements necessary to shield name change records from public view in eCourts will be implemented not later than October 4, 2021, with additional updates to Judiciary reports and the Electronic Access Program as of October 8, 2021. Attached is the Court's September 27, 2021 Order regarding those updates.

Questions regarding this notice or adult name changes may be directed to Assistant Director for Civil Practice Taironda Phoenix, at (609) 815-2900 x5400 or Taironda.Phoenix@njcourts.gov.



Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Dated: September 27, 2021

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

The Court in its July 30, 2021 Omnibus Rule Amendment Order amended Rule 1:38-3 (“Court Records Excluded from Public Access”) so as to exclude from public access all records in name change actions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:52- 1 and R. 4:72-1 et seq., effective September 1, 2021. However, implementation of the technological enhancements necessary to prevent public access to name change records submitted through eCourts on or after September 1, 2021 has been delayed. As a result, though intended to be shielded from public access, name change applications and related records filed on or after September 1, 2021 remain visible in eCourts. Those name change records will no longer be visible in eCourts as of October 4, 2021, and such records will be eliminated from public reports and the Electronic Access Program (“EAP”) effective October 8, 2021.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED as follows:

1. Retroactive to September 1, 2021, there shall be no public access to name change records filed on or after September 1, 2021. Such records shall be accessible only to the parties and to counsel of record. The Administrative Director of the Courts shall take such steps as necessary to effectuate this provision.
2. As soon as practicable, the Administrative Director of the Courts shall provide guidance to attorneys and to self-represented litigants as to the

process for initiating a name change action in the period between now and implementation of the in-development enhancements that will shield such records from public access in eCourts.

For the Court,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stuart R. Baker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and "R".

Chief Justice

Dated: September 27, 2021