

# NAME CHANGE PACKET

## COMANCHE NATION TRIBAL COURT DISTRICT COURT

The forms in this packet are to be used as a **template**, please re-type the forms and **do not** fill in the blanks. Please read the instructions carefully before completing the forms. The Court Clerks **CANNOT** accept documents that do not conform to the instructions in this packet.

You should refer to the Comanche Nation Tribal Court Codes prior to filing any petition or pleadings for a complete understanding of the rules and procedures governing your case. Should you need assistance in preparing any documents, you must consult with an attorney at your own expense. This court does not have legal aid. The Court Clerks are prohibited by Ethical Code and Court Rules to provide legal advice and help parties prepare or type court documents. Different situations may require special procedures and the Court Clerks **CANNOT** advise you on how to proceed or what forms may be necessary in specific situations.

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILING**

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE READ!!!**

1. Documents must be typed DOUBLE-SPACED and on LETTER SIZE PAPER (8 ½” x 11”).
2. Documents must be signed in front of the Court Clerk or a notary public when you are ready to file.
3. Filing fees, copy fees, etc. must be made in the form of a CASHIER’S CHECK or MONEY ORDER and must be payable to “Comanche Nation Tribal Court”. Filing fees MUST be paid at the time of filing your petition. If you are unsure of the amount of the filing fees, contact the Court Clerk.
4. Submit original Documents and one (1) copy for each party to be served, and an additional copy if you want a copy of the document for your records. If the Court Clerk makes your copies, you will be charged a copy fee of \$0.50 PER PAGE.
5. Documents must have the FULL ADDRESS including street, city, state & zip of the parties to be served. Obtaining this information is **your** responsibility.
6. The forms are a guide to use in preparing the documents. DO NOT fill in the blanks and submit for filing. IT MUST BE RE-TYPED.
7. Petitions filed MUST have a copy of the relevant birth certificate and tribal enrollment card/CDIB and be submitted with the petition when filed. Obtaining these documents is YOUR responsibility.
8. Proof of Service of a Petition is MANDATORY for your case to proceed. Obtaining proof of service is **your** responsibility. If you request the Court Clerks to serve the documents on your behalf, service fees MUST be paid at the time of submitting Request of Service.

**Court Clerks WILL NOT accept documents**

**that do not conform to these Instructions.**

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## REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILD NAME CHANGES

Parent; Guardian or Legal Custodians may apply for name changes for children based on the Codes of the Comanche Nation and must meet the following requirements and furnish the following documents when submitting their Petition. All requirements for change of name are found in §§1301-1307 of the Title 4. Children and Family Relations Code. If you have any questions of interpretation of these codes, please consult an attorney at your own expense.

1. Petitioner must pay all court costs, service and/or publication fees;
2. Petitioner must attach copy of Birth Certificate and Social Security Card and Custodial Order, Divorce Decree or any other Court documents which pertains to the change in the Applicant(s) name, to include Child Support Orders;
3. Proof of Tribal Membership of Petitioner.
4. In name change for a minor, if parental rights of either parent have been terminated, a certified copy of proof of termination must be attached to the Petition for Name Change.
5. In name change for a minor, service must be made upon the non-filing natural parent(s), if the natural parent(s) is deceased, include a statement reflecting this in the Petition, and by publication one time at least ten (10) days prior to the date set for hearing in some newspaper authorized by law to publish legal notices printed in the county where the petitioner resides if there be any printed in such county, and if there be none, then in some such newspaper printed in this state of general circulation in that county. In all other name changes, service may be made by publication only.
6. Petitioner must have been domiciled on "Indian Country" for more than thirty (30) days, and has been an actual resident of "Indian Country" for more than thirty (30) consecutive days, preceding the filing of the action. "Indian Country" is defined in §107(n) of Title 4.

**Title 4. Comanche Children and Family Relations Code, Section 1306 states as follows:**

*Any person who obtains a judgement under this chapter willfully intending to use the same for any illegal or fraudulent purpose, or who thereafter willfully and intentionally uses such judgment, or a copy thereof, for any illegal or fraudulent purpose, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.*

**THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE FOR EXAMPLE. THEY MUST BE RETYPED BEFORE SUBMISSION TO THE COURT CLERK. DO NOT WRITE ON THE FORMS AND SUBMIT THEM FOR FILING.**

## **LEGAL DEFINITIONS**

- Affidavit:** A written or printed declaration or statement of facts, made voluntarily, and confirmed by the oath or affirmation of the party making it, taken before a person having authority to administer such oath or affirmation.
- Answer:** The response of an answering party to the plaintiff/petitioner's complaint/petition, denying in part or in whole the allegations made by the petitioner. A pleading by which an answering party endeavors to resist the petitioner's demand by an allegation of facts, either denying allegations of petitioner's complaint/petition or confessing them and alleging new matter in avoidance, which an answering party alleges should prevent recovery on the facts alleged by plaintiff/petitioner.
- Motion:** An application made to a court or judge for purpose of obtaining a rule or order directing some act to be done in favor of the applicant.
- Notary:** A public officer whose function it is to administer oaths; to attest and certify, by his hand and official seal, certain classes of document, in order to give them credit and authenticity.
- Notice:** Information concerning a fact, actually communicated to a person by an authorized person, or actually derived by him from a proper source, and is regarding in law as "actual" when the person sought to be affected by it knows thereby of the existence of the particular fact in question.
- Petition:** A formal written application to a court requesting judicial action on a certain matter. A recital of facts which give rise to a cause of action.
- Service:** Signifies the delivering to or leaving them with the party to whom or with whom they ought to be delivered or left; and, when they are so delivered they are said then to have been served.

**Comanche Nation Tribal Court Codes, Title 4., Ch. 10, §§1301-1305.**

**CHAPTER THIRTEEN**

**NAME CHANGES**

**Section 1301. Right to Petition for Change of Name.** Any natural person, who has been domiciled in Indian country for more than thirty (30) days, and has been an actual resident of Indian country for more than thirty (30) days, preceding the filing of the action, may pay a \$15 filing fee and petition for a change of name in the Comanche Nation Tribal Court. If the person be a child, the action may be brought by guardian or next friend; provided that any such action involving a child shall be subject to all other requirements for name changes of a child set forth in this Code, which shall be controlling over any inconsistent provision of this chapter.

**Section 1302. Petition.** The petition shall be verified and shall state: (a) the name and address of the petitioner; (b) the facts as to domicile and residence; (c) the date and place of birth; (d) the birth certificate number, and place where the birth is registered, if registered; (e) the name desired by petitioner; (f) a clear and concise statement of the reasons for the desired change; (g) a positive statement that the change is not sought for any illegal or fraudulent purpose, or to delay or hinder creditors; and (h) in the case of a non-Indian petitioner, a statement of consent to the jurisdiction of the Comanche Nation Tribal Court.

**Section 1303. Notice; Protest; Hearing Date; Continuance.** Notice of filing of such petition shall be given by publishing the same one time at least ten (10) days prior to the date set for hearing in some newspaper authorized by law to publish legal notices printed in the county where the petitioner resides if there be any printed in such county, and if there be none, then in some such newspaper printed in this state of general circulation in that county. The notice shall contain the style and number of the case, the time, date and place where the same is to be heard, and that any person may file a written protest in the case prior to the date set for the hearing. The hearing date may be any day after completion of the publication. The court or judge, for cause, may continue the matter to a later date.

**Section 1304. Evidence; Determination.** The material allegations of the petition shall be sustained by sworn evidence, and the prayer of the petition shall be granted unless the court or judge finds that the change is sought for an illegal or fraudulent purpose, or that a material allegation in the petition is false.

**Section 1305. Judgment.** The judgment shall recite generally the material facts and the change granted, or if denied, the reasons for the denial. A certified or authenticated copy of such judgment may be filed in any office, where proper to do so, and shall be regarded as a judgment in a civil action.

**Section 1306. Illegal or Fraudulent Purpose.** Any person who obtains a judgment under this chapter willfully intending to use the same for any illegal or fraudulent purpose, or who thereafter willfully and intentionally uses such judgment, or a copy thereof, for any illegal or fraudulent purpose, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

**Section 1307. Exclusiveness of Statutory Remedy.** No natural person domiciled and residing in Indian country may change his name in the Comanche Nation Tribal Court except as provided in this chapter and **section 1218** of this Code, other than by marriage or decree of divorce or by adoption.

**IN THE COMANCHE NATION TRIBAL COURT  
DISTRICT COURT**

IN THE MATTER OF THE CHANGE )  
OF NAME OF: )

\_\_\_\_\_ )  
(Last, First Middle) Current name of Petitioner )

Case No. NC-\_\_\_\_ -\_\_\_\_ )  
(For use by Court Clerk) )

(if for minor include the following) )  
On behalf of: )

\_\_\_\_\_ )  
(First initial, Last Initial, of minor) )

An Enrolled Member of the )  
Comanche Nation. )

PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

COMES NOW, \_\_\_\_\_, Petitioner, (OR) \_\_\_\_\_ as  
(Petitioner, current legal name) (Person Filing)  
\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, and submits his/her Petition for Change of Name.  
(Relationship) (Minor Petitioner)

In support of his/her Petition, Petitioner will show the following:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (Petitioner) is enrolled with the Comanche Nation.
2. That Petitioner is currently resides at \_\_\_\_\_ which is found within Indian Country and has resided there since \_\_\_\_\_.
3. This Court has jurisdiction over these proceedings pursuant to Section 1301 et seq. of Title 4. Comanche Nation Tribal Codes.
4. That Petitioner was born on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, in \_\_\_\_\_ (City, County and State).
5. That the Birth Certificate Number is registered through the State of \_\_\_\_\_ and numbered as \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The Petitioner wishes to change his/her name from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
7. That Petitioner is seeking a change of name for the reason that:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 
- 
8. That a change of name is not sought for any illegal or fraudulent purpose, or to delay or hinder creditors.
9. By execution of this Petition for Change of Name, Petitioner hereby consents to the jurisdiction of the Comanche Nation Tribal Court.
10. *(If Applicable)* Petitioner is a minor child, whose natural mother is \_\_\_\_\_, and current address is \_\_\_\_\_.
11. *(If Applicable)* Petitioner is a minor child, whose natural father is \_\_\_\_\_, and current address is \_\_\_\_\_.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I am responsible for serving copies of this  
*Initials* Petition and all attachments on the other party because they are entitled to notice and opportunity to contest my Petition.

WHEREFORE, the Petitioner requests the Court to issue a Change of Name in favor of the Petitioner and that this matter be set for hearing at a time to be determined by the Court.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Petitioner

VERIFICATION

I, \_\_\_\_\_, certify that the foregoing facts as alleged in the Petition for Change of Name are true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge and belief.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Petitioner/Person Filing on behalf of Minor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public/Court Clerk

My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_ Commission Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**IN THE COMANCHE NATION TRIBAL COURT  
DISTRICT COURT**

IN THE MATTER OF THE CHANGE )  
OF NAME OF: )  
 )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )  
(Last, First Middle) Current name of Petitioner )  
 )  
(if for minor include the following) )  
On behalf of: )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )  
(First initial, Last Initial, of minor) )  
 )  
An Enrolled Member of the )  
Comanche Nation. )

Case No. NC-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_  
(For use by Court Clerk)

**REQUEST FOR SERVICE**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, request the Court Clerk serve this \_\_\_\_\_  
(Petition, Motion, etc.) on my behalf. I understand that I am responsible for paying the service fee  
in the amount of \$35.00/per party for service by the Comanche Nation Police Department (if the  
other party(ies) lives within Comanche Nation physical jurisdiction) or \$12.00/per party for service  
by certified mail (if the other party(ies) live outside Comanche Nation physical jurisdiction) for  
this request and that I must provide all known addresses for the other party(ies) unless the other  
party's address is confidential. **I also understand that the Court Clerk is only required to take  
reasonable steps to serve this document and that service may not be successful, which could  
cause delays in my case.**

The following address(es) should be used for attempting service on the other party(ies) (if  
the other party(ies) may be found at more than one location, please list all addresses):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

WHEREFORE, the \_\_\_\_\_(Petitioner, Movants, etc.) request the  
Court Clerks to attempt service on my behalf.

Respectfully Requested,

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ print

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**IN THE COMANCHE NATION TRIBAL COURT  
DISTRICT COURT**

IN THE MATTER OF THE CHANGE )  
 OF NAME OF: )  
 )  
 \_\_\_\_\_ )  
*(Last, First Middle) Current name of Petitioner* )  
 )  
*(if for minor include the following)* )  
 On behalf of: )  
 \_\_\_\_\_ )  
*(First initial, Last Initial, of minor)* )  
 )  
 An Enrolled Member of the )  
 Comanche Nation. )

Case No. NC-\_\_\_\_ -\_\_\_\_  
*(For use by Court Clerk)*

**ORDER SETTING HEARING**

NOW on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, upon the Petition for Change of Name filed herein, the Court finds that this matter should be set for hearing on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m., at the Comanche Nation Complex, 584 Bingo Road, Lawton, Oklahoma.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED by the Court that the Petition for Change of Name be and the same is hereby set for hearing at the stated time and location herein.

IT IS SO ORDERED!

\_\_\_\_\_  
 JUDGE,  
 COMANCHE NATION DISTRICT COURT

**IN THE COMANCHE NATION TRIBAL COURT  
DISTRICT COURT**

IN THE MATTER OF THE CHANGE )  
OF NAME OF: )  
 )  
\_\_\_\_\_) )  
*(Last, First Middle) Current name of Petitioner* )  
 )  
*(if for minor include the following)* )  
On behalf of: )  
\_\_\_\_\_) )  
*(First initial, Last Initial, of minor)* )  
 )  
An Enrolled Member of the )  
Comanche Nation. )

Case No. NC-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_  
*(For use by Court Clerk)*

SUMMONS

THE COMANCHE NATION TO:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*(Name, address of Natural Parent in Name Changes for Minor)*

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED TO APPEAR the Comanche Nation Complex, 584 NW Bingo Road, Lawton, Oklahoma, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m., and to there remain subject to the call of the Court until discharged, for the purpose of Show Cause Hearing pursuant to a Petition for Change of Name filed herein.

You may seek the advice of an attorney on any matters relating to this action at your own expense.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Court Clerk  
Comanche Nation Tribal Court

[Seal]

Petitioner or Attorney(s) for Petitioner:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**IN THE COMANCHE NATION TRIBAL COURT  
DISTRICT COURT**

IN THE MATTER OF THE CHANGE )  
OF NAME OF: )  
 )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )  
(Last, First Middle) Current name of Petitioner )  
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(if for minor include the following) )  
On behalf of: )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )  
(First initial, Last Initial, of minor) )  
 )  
An Enrolled Member of the )  
Comanche Nation. )

Case No. NC-\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_  
(For use by Court Clerk)

**NOTICE BY PUBLICATION**

**TO: ALL CREDITORS or INTERESTED PARTIES**

Take notice that \_\_\_\_\_ (OR) \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ of  
(Petitioner, current legal name) (Person Filing) (Relationship)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Minor Petitioner) has filed in the above Court a Petition to have the name changed  
as follows, to-wit from: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Current full legal name) (Intended full legal name)

The petition will be heard on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_.m  
located at the Comanche Nation Complex, 584 NW Bingo Road, Lawton, Oklahoma.

If you have any cause to show why the above mentioned Petition for Change of Name  
should not be granted by the Court you should file a written protest in the case prior to the date  
set for hearing or appear and present the same at the above time and place.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of said Court this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Court Clerk  
Comanche Nation Tribal Court

[Seal]

Petitioner or Attorney(s) for Petitioner:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_