



Congratulations! All the planning and patience paid off and you are now hitched! I have prepared this little guide to what happens now that all the partying is over, and you're at the beginning of married life!

A FEW THINGS TO NOTE:

- When you get married, you have the right to then start using your partner's surname. You *do not* have to, and you do not give up the right to your own maiden name, even if you choose to change your surname. Your maiden name is always yours.
- There is no time limit on changing your name. The right to change your name doesn't expire after a certain period of time. You can do it a month after you are married, a year after, or ten years after. Or you might decide to keep your maiden name! It's completely up to you if and when you decide to go through the process.
- The process is the same regardless of gender. In an opposite sex marriage *OR* a same sex marriage, either party can take on the others surname. This means that if a groom wishes to change to his wife's surname, this is allowed, and the below process would apply.
This also applies to hyphenating your surname.
- If you wish to have a totally different surname altogether, *OR* combine both your surnames to make a new one, you will need to apply for a formal name change with Births Deaths and Marriages, and pay a name change fee. You will not be able to use your marriage certificate to change your surname, as outlined in the below information.

A NOTE ON HONEYMOONS/TRAVEL:

If you plan on travelling or going on a honeymoon soon after the wedding, I would strongly advise booking everything in your maiden name! Births Deaths and Marriages can sometimes take months to send out your marriage certificate, and then there will be a further wait with each individual organization you change your name with. If you have plane tickets, passports, bookings etc made in your new married name, but have not been able to change your ID yet, this could prove very tricky for you. Consider when you are travelling, and whether you realistically will have had enough time to change all your details by then.

RECEIVING YOUR LEGAL MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.

On your wedding day you would have signed three certificates. One of those is your pretty commemorative certificate, one is for my records, and the last one is the one I sent to Births Deaths and Marriages. They then use this to register your marriage.

You can apply for your *legal* marriage certificate as soon as your marriage has been registered by Births Deaths and Marriages *OR* I can apply for it on your behalf when I lodge your paperwork. Once you or I have applied, it will be sent to you in the mail. (Please note this process can take several weeks/months during peak periods. This unfortunately is not something I am able to control or speed up. If you need your legal certificate in a hurry for any reason, I recommend contacting Births Deaths and Marriages directly).

Once your legal certificate arrives, you can begin the process of changing your name. I have listed below the most common associations that you will need to inform of your name change, and the process to do so. There may be others I have forgotten, but this list should cover the most important places.

HOW TO CHANGE YOUR NAME.

- Drivers Licence** - Once you have changed this over to your new name, many other places will accept this as a primary form of photo identification.
You will need to physically attend VicRoads with your current licence and your legal marriage certificate (issued by BDM) to change your name. A new photo will be taken and they will send a new licence out.
- Medicare** – You will need to physically attend a Medicare office with your official marriage certificate and current Medicare card.
- Bank** (accounts, credit cards, ATM cards, loans, mortgage, cheque books, term deposit accounts) – You will need to physically attend your bank with your current account details and your official marriage certificate.
- Passport** – If there is more than 2 years validity on your current passport you can change your name for free. You will need to complete a Passport Renewal Application Form and submit it at your nearest Passport Office (usually the post office). You will also need to show them your official marriage certificate and your current passport.
- Wills** - You both should change your wills right away to have your spouse included as a beneficiary.
- Superannuation** – Depending on your fund, you may be required to fill out a change of details form and also send a certified copy of my official marriage certificate. Also remember to change your beneficiary to your spouse if he/she is not already.
- Voter Registration** – You can update your details online or pick up an enrolment form from the post office/download online.
- Australian Tax Office** – You can change online, via post or via phone. Updating online through your MyGov account is the easiest way. You will need a copy of your marriage certificate in front of you so that you can enter things exactly as they are typed on your certificate. First, login to your MyGov account, select Australian Taxation Office down the bottom, and click the 'my details' tab. This will give you the option to update your name. You will need a copy of your official marriage certificate as it will ask you for the registration number.
- Insurance policies (Car, home/contents, health, life, income protection)** – Phone call to advise of your new name should suffice.

- Property titles, Council Rates/Animal registration** – Property titles can be updated for a free or wait if you are looking to update your mortgage as the change of name will be free. Copy of marriage certificate sent to council for rates and animal registration details.
- Memberships/Loyalty Cards** - RACV, gym, frequent flyer, sports clubs, library, blood donor card, etc.
- Utilities** – Water/Electricity/Gas: Some companies allow you to change your details via your online account. Others may send you a change of details form. Contact your individual supplier to find out what is required.
- Rental Agreements/Real Estate Agent/RTBA** (Residential Tenancy Bond Authority). Contact your Real Estate directly to find out what they require (most will accept your certificate and one form of photo ID with your new name).
- Your employer** – contact your payroll/HR department.
- Online Accounts** – Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, LinkedIn, iTunes.
- Ambulance Membership** – Phone call
- Australian Organ Donor Register** – Should automatically updated when you update your Medicare details.
- Citylink/Eastlink account** – I actually don't remember if I bothered to do this... maybe call them to check.
- Mobile/Home phone account** – Check with your individual provider. Providing new updated ID should normally suffice.
- Internet account** – As above.
- Regular service providers** – hairdresser, mechanic, vet, accountant, lawyer, doctor, dentist, etc.
- Voicemail**
- Pet microchip company**
- Magazine and newspaper subscriptions**
- Investment Accounts/Shares**
- Centrelink** - your Social Security, Family Payments, etc, entitlements may change with marriage and you don't want to be up for unintentional "fraud" or owing them for overpayments.
- Your school/university/TAFE or your children's school**
- Australian Business Register if you're the director of a company**
- White Pages listing**
- Pay TV account**