



Anyone who gets married in Australia may choose to assume their spouse's surname. This is done as a matter of custom, not law.

Many people think they need to apply for a change of name with the Australian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. This is not the case.

A certified marriage certificate issued by an Australian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages is usually sufficient evidence to have personal documentation changed to a married surname.

Where can I get a certified marriage certificate?

The certificate that your celebrant gives you is not sufficient evidence of marriage to change your name.

You will need to get a certified marriage certificate from either the Australian Registry of Births,
Deaths and Marriages in your capital city, a local court or online https://online-rbdm.justice.wa.gov.au/

The cost is (at time of printing) \$53 for the certificate.



You will need to wait until your marriage is officially registered before you can begin the process of changing your name. (This can take up to a month).

Purchase your certified marriage certificate.

Take your marriage certificate to the places you wish to change your name and begin the process.

If you want to change your name on your passport it is recommended you do it within the first year and they will issue you with a replacement passport at no cost, if you wait until after the year you will need to pay for the replacement.