

## Can a birth certificate be changed?

In England and Wales, you cannot get your birth certificate changed if you change your name unless:

- **You are changing a child's forename(s) within 12 months of registration:**  
If you only wish to change the forename(s) of a child for which you have Parental Responsibility, you can have the child's birth certificate amended to include the child's new forename(s) providing the change occurs within 12 months of the original registration. The new full birth certificate will show both the original and the new forename(s) but the short birth certificate will only show the new forename(s).
- **You are changing a child's surname from the mother's surname to the father's surname (parents not married):**  
if the parents of the child were not married to each other at the time of the birth and the father did not attend with the mother to register the child, it is possible to re-register the birth at any time in the future to include the father's details and change the surname of the child to that of the father (only if both parents agree, otherwise a court order is required). Upon re-registration, a new birth certificate will be issued.
- **If changing a child's surname from the mother's surname to the father's surname (parents married since birth):**  
if the parents have married each other since the birth was registered, the birth can be re-registered to show the father's details. The birth will then be re-registered and the child and mother's surname can be changed to that of the father as part of this process. Upon re-registration, a new birth certificate will be issued.