

## Here's how a name change affects a tax return

When someone legally changes their name, there are tax consequences they need to know about., especially at tax time. People change their names for several reasons:

- Taking their spouse's last name after a marriage
- Hyphenating their last name with their spouse's after getting married
- Going back to their former name after a divorce
- Giving an adopted child the last name of their new family
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The IRS wants people experiencing a name change to remember these important things:

**Reporting change to SSA.** Taxpayers should [notify the Social Security Administration](#) of a name change ASAP. When a taxpayer files their taxes, the IRS checks SSA records to ensure names and social security numbers on the forms match.

**Failing to report a name change.** If a name on a taxpayer's tax return doesn't match SSA records, it can delay the IRS processing of that return. In that case, if the taxpayer is due a refund, it will take longer for them to get their money.

**Name Change Due to Adoption.** In the case of an adoption, if the child has a Social Security number, the taxpayer should be sure to inform the SSA of a name change. If the child does not have a Social Security number, the taxpayer may use an [Adoption Taxpayer Identification Number](#) on their tax return. An ATIN is a temporary number. Taxpayers can apply for an ATIN by filing [Form W-7A](#), Application for Taxpayer Identification Number for Pending U.S. Adoptions. Taxpayers file this form with the IRS.

**Getting a New SS Card.** After a name change, a taxpayer should file [Form SS-5](#), Application for a Social Security Card. The form is available on [SSA.gov](#) or by calling 800-772-1213. The taxpayer's new Social Security card will reflect the name change.