

Hi there. If you want to object to a name change request or if someone objected to yours, I am here to help. One thing before we get started. There's a different process to object to a name change in connection with a petition for judicial declaration of gender identity. Visit [mdcourts.gov/genderidentity](http://mdcourts.gov/genderidentity) to learn more.

Ok, so let's begin by talking about how to object to a name change.

#### **CHAPTER HEADING: HOW TO OBJECT TO A NAME CHANGE**

You'll need to file a written statement describing the reasons for your objection. For example, you may have first-hand knowledge that the request is for illegal or fraudulent purposes. Your objection needs to include an affidavit, which is a promise to the court, under the penalties of perjury, that the statements in your objection are true and based on your personal knowledge. It must also state that you are competent, meaning you are able to testify about your statements. File your objection at the circuit court where the petition was filed.

If you are objecting to an adult's name change, use form CC-DR-115 and file it within 30 days of when the petition was filed.

The process for children has a few more steps. To file an objection, you must be a parent, guardian, or custodian. Use Form CC-DR-063. You'll have 30 days from the time you were served notice of the name change request to file your objection. You must provide copies of your objection to the person who petitioned for the name change and other parents, guardians, or custodians. You can do this by mail or in-person. If you do not file on time, the court may consider your silence as consent.

Now, let's turn to the other side of the case – responding to an objection.

#### **CHAPTER HEADING: RESPONDING TO AN OBJECTION**

If someone objects to your name change request, you have 15 days to file a written response with the court. Mail or deliver a copy of your response to the person who objected. If you requested a name change for a child, you also need to mail or deliver a copy of your response to all other parents, guardians, or custodians.

A hearing may or may not be held. For adults, it is up to the court to decide if a hearing is needed. Cases involving children will always have a hearing. But rest assured, the court will not deny a name change request without first having a hearing. You will have a chance to be heard.

I hope this video has been helpful. If you have questions, Visit, [mdcourts.gov/namechange](http://mdcourts.gov/namechange). Thanks for watching.