

THE INS AND OUTS OF NAME CHANGING.

It is common that whenever a person needs to change, add or drop a name on any identification document, they are required to produce a deed poll. A deed poll is a document that is usually drafted with the help of a lawyer explaining the changes in a person's names. This is registered with the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB). It also gazetted in the Uganda National Gazette.

Changing a name legally avoids disqualification or rejection of the new name whenever presented for use.

Many of us have dreamt of changing our names for one reason or the other. It is important to note that there are some reasons that are not acceptable by law. Some of these are;

- Changing the name to escape debt liability or to hide from criminal liability.
- Changing the name in order to commit a crime.
- Changing a name with the intention to mislead.
- Choosing a name that would intimidate, offend, or be considered obscene.
- Choosing a racial slur.

Many people who are getting married often suffer with the decision of whether to change their names or not. There are some advantages of a married couple using the same name and these include;

- Family bonding. It is a way of creating a family identity.
- Disliking your sir name. In case you dislike your surname, this is a perfect excuse to start using your husband's name instead.

There are also disadvantages and things to consider before one changes their name upon marriage. These include;

- Separation. Most people do not usually know what to do with their names once the marriage has end. They can either use

the name and take up all the emotions and status it provides or go back to their given names.

- Professional consideration. In cases where one the partners has become an expert in their field for example a well published author, holder of a doctorate, an artist, journalist and many more, they are easily identified by their given names and stand to lose their audience if they change their brand name.
- The long procedure of paperwork. There are a number of changes that occur with changing your name that some people would rather not deal with for example changing your work contracts, driver's license, passports.

Before you make that decision to change your name, consult so that you can make an informed decision.

>blair.advocates@gmail.com