

CHAPTER 55

COURTS

SENATE BILL 26-018

BY SENATOR(S) Wallace and Kolker, Hinrichsen, Jodeh, Kipp, Weissman;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Froelich and Garcia, Bacon, Boesenecker, Brown, Camacho, Carter, Duran, Gilchrist, Joseph,
Lindsay, Martinez, McCormick, Nguyen, Paschal, Rydin, Sirota, Smith, Story, Titone, Valdez, Velasco, Willford, Woodrow,
Zokaie.

AN ACT

CONCERNING LEGAL PROTECTIONS FOR THE DIGNITY OF A MINOR, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, SUPPRESSING A COURT RECORD ASSOCIATED WITH CHANGING A MINOR'S NAME.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-15-101, **add** (7) as follows:

13-15-101. Petition - proceedings - applicability - definition.

(7) (a) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (7), "SUPPRESSED COURT RECORD" MEANS A COURT RECORD THAT IS ONLY ACCESSIBLE TO JUDGES; COURT STAFF; A PARTY TO THE CASE, INCLUDING A PARTY'S ATTORNEY; AUTHORIZED JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT STAFF; AND AN INDIVIDUAL WITH A VALID COURT ORDER OR AFFIDAVIT AUTHORIZING ACCESS TO THE COURT RECORD.

(b) (I) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026, IF A PETITIONER IS UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD AT THE TIME OF FILING THE PETITION, A COURT RECORD ASSOCIATED WITH A PETITION SEEKING TO CHANGE THE PETITIONER'S NAME IS A SUPPRESSED COURT RECORD. NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 13-15-102, THE SUPPRESSED COURT RECORD MAY BE USED BY THE COURT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES, BUT THE COURT SHALL NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE PUBLISH THE PETITIONER'S NAME OR THE PETITIONER'S NEW NAME ONLINE.

(II) THIS SUBSECTION (7)(b) DOES NOT APPLY IF THE NAME CHANGE IS GRANTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION AND THE GOOD CAUSE DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(b)(II) OF THIS SECTION APPLIES.

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

(III) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (7)(b)(I) OF THIS SECTION, IF A PERSON PETITIONS THE COURT TO SUPPRESS A COURT RECORD ASSOCIATED WITH A PETITION TO CHANGE THE PETITIONER'S NAME THAT IS FILED BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, THE COURT SHALL GRANT THE REQUEST AND ORDER THE RECORDS SUPPRESSED.

(c) A COURT SHALL GRANT AN INDIVIDUAL ACCESS TO A SUPPRESSED COURT RECORD IF THE INDIVIDUAL OBTAINS VERBAL CONSENT FROM A PARTY TO THE CASE AND SUBMITS AN AFFIDAVIT TO THE COURT, UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY, THAT THE INDIVIDUAL HAS OBTAINED THE VERBAL CONSENT.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-15-102, **add** (3.5) as follows:

13-15-102. Publication of change.

(3.5) A PETITIONER IS NOT REQUIRED TO GIVE PUBLIC NOTICE OF A NAME CHANGE AS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION IF THE PETITION IS BEING FILED BY, OR ON BEHALF OF, A PERSON WHO IS UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD.

SECTION 3. Safety clause. The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state institutions.

Approved: April 20, 2026