



PONCA TRIBAL COURT

1800 Syracuse Ave. | Norfolk, NE 68701 • Phone: 531.371.1628 • Fax: 402.371.3238

Re: Name Change of a child

Enclosed, please find the Petition that you may use to change a name of a child through the Ponca Tribal Court. Please complete this Petition and return it to my office, along with a \$60.00 filing fee. If you cannot afford the filing fee, then please complete the enclosed Motion to Proceed In Forma Pauperis. The Judge has to approve or deny the Motion. Please note that the Ponca Tribal Council has determined that the filing fee may be waived for Ponca Members only.

I have also enclosed a Jurisdictional Affidavit that must be completed in order to file your Petition. Once I receive the Petition and the filing fee (or an Order signed by the Judge approving the Motion to Proceed), then the Judge will schedule a hearing.

You will need to have the legal authority to change the name of a minor, and the parents will need to be personally notified. It is possible that a pretrial conference may be held. Pretrial conferences may be held by phone, so I have also enclosed telephonic hearing rules.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 531-371-1628, or via email at tribalcourt@poncatrib-ne.gov.

Sincerely,

RUTHANNE GALLUP
Tribal Court Administrator

Enc: Petition; Motion to Proceed In Forma Pauperis; Jurisdiction Affidavit; Telephonic Hearing Rules

IN THE PONCA TRIBAL COURT

IN THE MATTER OF:

CIV # _____

From:

First Middle Last

To:

First Middle Last

Date of Birth

**PETITION FOR
NAME CHANGE
OF A MINOR**

STATE OF _____

COUNTY OF _____

SS

I, _____ am the Petitioner, and my mailing address is:

ADDRESS

APT. #

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

I wish to change the name of a minor.

- Do you have legal authority to change the name of the minor? _____
- Are you their parent? _____, if no, are you the legal guardian? _____
- Has any court ordered child support, custody, allocation of parental responsibilities or parenting time regarding this minor? _____ If yes, please list the Court and caption of the proceeding.

I declare under oath or affirmation the following:

1. Jurisdiction. That jurisdiction with the Ponca Tribal Court is proper because of the following:

I am a member of the _____ Tribe and I live in the Ponca Service area. The minor is a member of the _____ Tribe and lives in the Ponca Service area.

2. Birth Date and Place. The minor's birth name is _____

and they were born on this date: _____ / _____ / _____ in _____, _____

City

_____ County, of _____

State

A copy of the birth certificate is attached to this Petition.

3. Parents. The father is named _____, and

He resides at _____ The father

Address

Apt. #

City

State

Zip Code

is a member of the _____ Tribe and his enrollment number is _____.

- Has the father been notified of this name change? _____
- Does the father consent to this name change? _____
- Is there a reason why consent should be waived? _____ What is the reason?

The **mother** is named _____ and she resides at _____
First Last

_____. The mother is a
Address Apt. # City State Zip Code

member of the _____ Tribe, and her enrollment number is _____.

- Has the mother been notified of this name change? _____
- Does the mother consent to this name change? _____
- Is there a reason why consent should be waived? _____ What is the reason?

4. Prior Names and other information. Any other current or prior names, including aliases that the minor has used are: _____

- Has the minor been convicted of a crime or civil offense in any jurisdiction during the five years immediately preceding this Petition? _____
- Does the minor have any criminal or civil offense charges pending in any jurisdiction? _____
- Is the minor now, or has the minor even been required to register under any name on any sexual offender registry? _____ If so, please list the name the minor is registered under and the jurisdiction of the registry.

5. Reason for Name Change.

- Is this in the best interest of the minor? _____
- Is this for the purpose of committing or furthering the commission of any criminal or civil offense or any purpose involving false statements? _____
- Do you understand that this will not release the minor from any obligations incurred or harm any rights of property or actions in the original name? _____

I wish to add the following reason for changing the name:

NOW THEREFORE, I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST that the name of

_____ be changed to that of

_____. Also, that the birth record be amended to reflect the change of name, and the Tribal Court notify the Tribal enrollment office of the respective Tribe of the change of name.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my ability.

Dated this _____ day of _____, _____.

Petitioner

SUBSCRIBED TO and sworn before me on _____.

[SEAL]

Notary Public

IN THE PONCA TRIBAL COURT

STATE OF _____)
) ss
COUNTY OF _____)

MOTION TO PROCEED
IN FORMA PAUPERIS

I, _____, being duly sworn upon by oath, say:
(Your Name)

1. I am unable to pay the costs of this action.
2. I am a member of the _____ Tribe, enrollment # _____.
The Ponca Tribal Council has determined that only enrolled members of the Ponca Tribe are eligible for a waiver of filing fees.
3. My family unit consists of _____ people (1 Self + _____ children + _____ adults)
4. My family unit has an average gross **monthly** income of \$_____, including (check all)
☐ Employment \$_____ ☐ Food Stamps\$_____ ☐ Medicaid
☐ Child Support\$_____ ☐ SSI\$_____ ☐ TANF \$_____
☐ Other _____ ☐ Other _____
5. I receive no income from other sources. This is how I can live without any money coming in or going out to pay bills: _____

6. My family unit's average **monthly** expenses are \$_____, which include
Rent \$_____ Heating \$_____ Lights \$_____ Trash \$_____
Phone\$_____ Child Care\$_____ Food(Do not include food stamps) \$_____
Alcohol\$_____ Cigarettes \$_____ Car, insurance & gas for car \$_____
Other (explain) \$_____ Other (explain) \$_____
7. I own ☐ no real or personal property of more than nominal value. ☐ the following real or personal property that has more than nominal value: _____

8. I wish to add the following for consideration.

9. The phone number where I may be contacted is _____.
The email address that I regularly use and check is _____.
10. Have you, on three or more prior occasions, brought an action or appeal in a Ponca Court that were dismissed on the grounds of being frivolous, malicious, or failing to state a claim upon which relief may be granted? () Yes () No
If yes, is the reason you are coming to court because you are in imminent danger of serious bodily injury? () Yes () No
11. I understand that a false statement or answer to any questions in this Motion may subject me to penalties of perjury.

Your Signature

Date

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN BEFORE ME ON THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 20____

Notary

Approved by Court 2026 0617

(SEAL) Commission Expires: _____

IN THE PONCA TRIBAL COURT

_____,)
Plaintiff/Petitioner,)
)
vs.)
)
_____,)
Defendant/Respondent.)

CASE # _____

JURISDICTIONAL AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF _____)
) ss
COUNTY OF _____)

COMES NOW Affiant, after being duly sworn and under penalty of perjury, and states as follows:

- 1) My name is _____.
- 2) My mailing address is _____.
- 3) My telephone number is _____.
- 4) My email that I check often is _____.
- 5) My physical address, where I primarily reside, is _____
located in _____ County in the state of _____.
- 6) I () am a member of the _____ Tribe, my enrollment
number is _____. This () is () is not a federally recognized Tribe.
I () am not a member of a Tribe.
My child is a member of the _____ Tribe, enrollment# _____.
- 7) I understand that this information is being provided to determine if I reside within
the territorial jurisdiction of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska.
- 8) I understand that I am providing this information under oath and penalty of
perjury, with legal consequences if I knowingly make a false statement in this document.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT

DATED this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Affiant – My signature

SUBSCRIBED TO and sworn before me on _____.

[SEAL]

Notary Public

PONCA TRIBAL COURT
INSTRUCTIONS FOR VIDEOCONFERENCE AND/OR TELEPHONIC APPEARANCES

You may appear by videoconference or by telephone for hearings in the Ponca Tribal Court if the hearing for which you will be appearing will not require evidence (such as testimony from witnesses, documents, or other physical evidence) to be taken. Parties at the following types of hearings may always appear by videoconference or telephonically, unless the Court orders otherwise:

- Pretrial conferences
- Temporary hearings by affidavit (sworn, notarized written statements) only
- Status hearings
- Any other hearings where the Court has specifically allowed videoconference or telephonic appearances

Videoconference is viewed as personal appearance. To appear by videoconference, you must contact the Tribal Court Clerk by email at tribalcourt@poncatrib-ne.gov and request a link to use on your computer or smart phone. You may request the link earlier than the scheduled hearing date, and request to test the link on your computer or smart phone. You may also contact the offices below to schedule a room to appear by videoconference.

Ponca Tribe of NE Courtroom – 1800 Syracuse Avenue, Norfolk NE 68701	402-371-8834
Fred LeRoy Health & Wellness – 2602 J. Street, Omaha, NE 68107	402-734-5275
Ponca Tribe of NE in Ralston – 5805 S. 86th Circle, Ralston, NE 68127	402-315-2760
Ponca Health & Wellness – 1600 Windhoek Drive, Lincoln NE 68512	402-438-9222
Ponca Tribe of NE Office – 125 6th Street, Sioux City IA 51103	712-258-0500
Ponca Tribe of NE Headquarters – 2523 Woodbine Street, Niobrara NE 68760	402-857-3391

You are expected to follow the Rules of Conduct for the Ponca Tribal Court. As stated in the Rules of Conduct, “Anyone not giving the proper respect to the process of Justice may be removed from the Courtroom”.

Your hearing may not happen at the scheduled time, as the Court will frequently schedule a number of hearings for the same time and take them in order. The Order of the hearings will be determined by the Tribal Court Judge and the Tribal Court Administrator and be based upon: **1. Time of Arrival of the parties. 2. Representation by counsel. 3. Nature of the Hearing. 4. Anticipated length of the hearing. 5. Any other factors that need to be considered.**

To appear by phone, you must call the Court to check in between 8 am and 9 am on the date of your scheduled hearing and provide to the Court a telephone number where you can be reached when your telephonic hearing is ready to begin. Regardless of where the Court is held the number to check in is 402-371-8834.

Your hearing may not happen at the scheduled time, as the Court will frequently schedule a number of hearings for the same time and take them in order as listed above. Thus, you should be prepared for a delay prior to your hearing.

If you choose, you may check-in for your telephonic hearing by e-mail to tribalcourt@poncatrib-ne.gov. This e-mail check-in must be made between 8 am and 9 am the day of your scheduled hearing and provide a telephone number where you can be reached when your hearing is ready to begin.

FAILURE TO APPEAR BY VIDEOCONFERENCE OR TO CALL AND CHECK IN, OR FAILURE TO ANSWER AT THE NUMBER PROVIDED AFTER THE CHECK-IN, WILL BE TREATED BY THE COURT AS A FAILURE TO APPEAR AFTER PROPER NOTICE.