



British Embassy  
Doha

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## **INFORMATION NOTE:**

### **CHANGE OF NAME IN THE UNITED KINGDOM**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

#### **Surnames**

Under English law, a person may change their surname at will. The law concerns itself only with the question whether the individual has in fact assumed and has come to be known by a surname different from that by which they were originally known. So long as that is the case the change of surname will be valid. The process is not subject to any documentary formalities, although there is a facility for doing so through the UK courts by way of a Deed Poll or Statutory Declaration.

#### **Marriage**

Upon marriage, while it is traditional for the woman to take the man's surname, it is also acceptable for the woman to keep her maiden name or the couple to create their own 'double-barrelled' or hyphenated surname by using both of their original surnames. The British Marriage Certificate states the surnames of the parties prior to their marriage and is supporting evidence of a request by either party to change their surname. No additional documentation is required under UK law. The British Embassy is not able to issue a certificate to confirm that hyphenated names are acceptable in the UK.

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