

Order

Michigan Supreme Court
Lansing, Michigan

November 19, 2025

Megan K. Cavanagh,
Chief Justice

ADM File No. 2025-04

Brian K. Zahra
Richard H. Bernstein
Elizabeth M. Welch
Kyra H. Bolden
Kimberly A. Thomas
Noah P. Hood,
Justices

Amendment of Rule
3.613 of the Michigan
Court Rules

On order of the Court, notice of the proposed changes and an opportunity for comment in writing and at a public hearing having been provided, and consideration having been given to the comments received, the following amendment of Rule 3.613 of the Michigan Court Rules is adopted, effective January 1, 2026.

[Additions to the text are indicated in underlining and
deleted text is shown by strikeover.]

Rule 3.613 Change of Name

- (A) [Unchanged.]
- (B) Published Notice; Contents. Unless otherwise provided in this rule, the court must order publication of the notice of the proceeding to change a name in a newspaper in the county where the action is pending. If the court has waived fees under MCR 2.002, it must pay the cost of any ordered publication, including any affidavit fee charged by the publisher or the publisher's agent for preparing the affidavit pursuant to MCR 2.106(G). Any case record reflecting court payment must be nonpublic. A published notice of a proceeding to change a name must include the name of the petitioner; the current name of the subject of the petition; the proposed name; and the time, date, and place of the hearing, or alternatively, the date by which a person with the same or similar name to the petitioner's proposed name must file a motion to intervene. Proof of service must be made as provided by MCR 2.106(G)(1).
- (C) No Publication of Notice; Confidential Record. Upon receiving a petition ~~showing~~establishing good cause, the court must order that no publication of notice of the proceeding take place and that the record of the proceeding be confidential. Good cause includes but is not limited to evidence that publication or availability of ~~the~~a record of the proceeding could place the petitioner or another individual in physical danger, at an ~~or increased~~ the likelihood of such danger, or~~such as evidence that the petitioner or another individual has been the victim of stalking, domestic violence, human trafficking, harassment, or an assaultive crime, or evidence that publication or the availability of a record of the proceeding could place the petitioner~~

~~or another individual~~ at risk of unlawful retaliation or discrimination. Good cause must be presumed as provided in MCL 711.3.

- (1) ~~Evidence supporting good cause must include the petitioner's or the endangered individual's sworn statement stating the reason supporting good cause, including but not limited to fear of physical danger, if the record is published or otherwise available. The court must not require proof of an arrest or prosecution to~~ find that a petition shows~~reach a finding of good cause.~~
- (2) [Unchanged.]
- (3) If a petition requesting nonpublication under this subrule is granted, the court must:
 - (a) [Unchanged.]
 - (b) notify the petitioner of its decision and the time, date, and place of the hearing, if any, on the requested name change under subrule (A); and
 - (c) [Unchanged.]
- (4) If a petition requesting nonpublication under this subrule is denied, the court must issue a written order that states the reasons for denying relief and advises the petitioner of the right to
 - (a)-(b) [Unchanged.]
 - (c) proceed with a hearing on the name change petition by submitting a publication of notice of hearing for name change form with the court within 14 days of entry of the order denying the petition requesting nonpublication. If the petitioner submits such form, ~~in accordance with subrule (B)~~ the court ~~may~~must set a time, date, and place of a hearing and must order publication in accordance with subrule (B).
- (5)-(9) [Unchanged.]
- (10) If a petition requesting nonpublication under this subrule is denied, and the petitioner or the court proceed with ~~thesetting a time, date, and place of a hearing on the petition for a name change as provided in subrules (4)(c) or (6),~~ the court must order that the record is no longer confidential.

- (D) Minor's Signature. A petition for a change of name by a minor need not be signed in the presence of a judge. ~~However, the separate written consent that must be signed by a minor 14 years of age or older shall be signed in the presence of the judge.~~

(E)-(G) [Unchanged.]

Staff Comment (ADM File No. 2025-04): The amendment of MCR 3.613 realigns the rule with recent amendments of MCL 711.1 and MCL 711.3 regarding name change proceedings.

The staff comment is not an authoritative construction by the Court. In addition, adoption of a new rule or amendment in no way reflects a substantive determination by this Court.



I, Elizabeth Kingston-Miller, Clerk of the Michigan Supreme Court, certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the order entered at the direction of the Court.

November 19, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Kingston-Miller".
Clerk