



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2003 Wisconsin Act 65 [2003 Assembly Bill 52]	Changing a Minor's Name
2003 Acts: www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/	Act Memos: www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm

2003 Wisconsin Act 65 permits the name of a minor to be changed upon petition of one parent if the other parent is unavailable.

BACKGROUND

Under current law, in order to change the name of a minor who is under 14 years of age, both parents, if living, must petition the court for the name change.

2003 WISCONSIN ACT 65

Wisconsin Act 65 provides that the name of a minor who is under 14 years of age and has two living parents may be changed on the petition of one parent if that parent files proof of publication of the notice of the petition and proof of serving the petition on the other parent, and the other parent does not appear at the hearing on the petition or otherwise answer the petition. If the other parent cannot be found or provided with notice, the minor's name may be changed if the petitioning parent has made a reasonable attempt to find and provide notice to the other parent, but with reasonable diligence, the other parent cannot be found or provided with notice and does not appear at the hearing or otherwise answer the petition.

If the other parent does appear at the hearing or otherwise answers the petition and shows that he or she has not abandoned the minor or failed to assume parental responsibility for the minor, the court must require the other parent's consent before changing the minor's name.

Effective Date: The Act takes effect on November 20, 2003.

Prepared by: Anne Sappenfield, Senior Staff Attorney

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents.