

## REGULATIONS ON CHANGE OF NAME FOR MARRIED FILIPINO WOMEN FOR THE PURPOSE OF CIVIL REGISTRY APPLICATION

The processing of Philippine civil registry documents is guided by Philippine regulations, including the Civil Code of the Philippines.

Married applicants who wish to use the surnames of their husbands in their Philippine documents are advised that the following format will be used in accordance with Article 370 of the Civil Code of the Philippines which states that:

“A married woman may use:

(1) Her **maiden first name** and **surname** and add her **husband’s surname**,”

To illustrate:

When Juana Santos Cruz was single, her name followed the following format:

**JUANA/ SANTOS/ CRUZ**  
First Name/ Middle Name/ Surname

If Juana Santos Cruz marries John Doe, and if Juana chooses to use her husband’s surname, her new full name would be:

**JUANA/ CRUZ/ DOE/**  
First Name/ Middle Name/ Surname

Under Philippine regulations, for single women and men, the *middle name* refers to the **surname of the person’s mother**. Once a woman marries and decides to use the surname of her husband, the maiden middle name (i.e. Santos) is automatically dropped and is replaced by her maiden surname (i.e. Cruz).

In the US, however, a person’s middle name refers to his second name. Applying such US regulation to Juana Santos Cruz who marries John Doe, she drops her maiden surname (i.e. Cruz) and instead carries her maiden middle name (i.e Santos) making her new full name, Juana Santos Doe, contrary to Philippine Laws. As such, **this regulation cannot be applied to Philippine documents.**