

New Zealand Birth Law Changes

Names changes in New Zealand 1995

The New Zealand law on Births was changed under Section 68 of the BDM Act 1995.

It affects all children born before 1st January 1972 whose parents were not married.

If a child was registered in the Father's surname then the registration entry has been changed and the child has been re-registered with the Mother's surname (maiden name) without any advice or consultation to the parties concerned.

These new updated birth registrations have not been published so any of the prior published New Zealand Birth Indexes still only list the original entries as recorded from 1972 to 1990 when the registry ceased publishing the birth indexes.

This can affect documents of a legal nature, such as applying for a passport, driver's licence, marriage certificate etc.

In New Zealand it is not a crime to change your name and be known by any name you choose and this applies to both males and females. It is only when you change your name with the intention of defrauding someone to commit a crime that it becomes unlawful.

Changing your name by Deed Poll is only a legal step not a necessary one.