

DCLRC Docket: News & Notes



Dane County Legal Resource Center

Rm 315--210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd. Madison, WI 53703

May 2004

Open 8:30-4:30 M-F

COMING SOON!

A **Small Claims Assistance Program** is scheduled to begin June 22 in the Courthouse. Every Tuesday morning 9-11 am, a volunteer attorney from the Dane County Bar Association will be available to assist people with questions, forms, and procedures regarding Small Claims actions, including replevins, garnishments, and evictions. The Program will meet on the Third Floor of the Courthouse. Check in Room 315 (DCLRC) for a specific location or call DCLRC if you have questions, 266-6316. The volunteers staffing the program will not give legal advice.

May Sale

In April, **all legal fiction books** are 50 cents off in our ongoing used book sale held in the library. New titles arrive each week...be sure to stop in regularly to view our selection!

Upcoming Events & News

A **Legal Research in a Nutshell class** will be held at the following time and location. The class covers the basic Wisconsin primary and secondary legal resources in print and on the Internet and is designed for those with little or no experience with legal materials.

- Thursday May 11, 6-8 pm Sun Prairie Public Library (1350 Linnerud Drive, Sun Prairie); Call 825-READ for reservations.

- DCLRC will be closed May 31 in observance of Memorial Day.
- REMINDER: Subscribe to one of our e-newsletters for additional legal research and Internet tips! Contact us for more information.
- If you support the services offered by DCLRC, please let your County Board Supervisor know! You can find your Supervisor on this website: <http://www.co.dane.wi.us/coboard/default.asp> or by calling 266-5758.

This Month's Reference Question: Name Change of a Minor

Q: I just recently got married, and therefore changed my name. My daughter now has my maiden name, and I am wondering how I can change it? Do I need to have her father's permission or not because it was my last name to start with?

A: If your daughter's birth certificate needs to be changed, you will need to complete a legal name change. Depending on your daughter's age and judgment of paternity, her father may or may not need to give consent. Wisconsin statute § 786.36-786.37 (as recently amended by 2003 WI Act 65) provides information about the legal name change procedure of a minor.

*If your daughter is 14 or over, she can petition for a name change herself without needing parental consent.

*If your daughter is under 14, the petition may be made by the mother alone if paternity has not been established. If paternity has been established, and both parents are living, the petitioning parent must serve a copy of the petition and notice of hearing on the other parent. If the non-petitioning parent answers the petition or appears at the hearing, the court shall require consent by both parents before changing the name. If the non-petitioning parent fails to appear at the hearing or answer the petition, or cannot be found and the petitioning parent provides substantial proof that a reasonable attempt to find and provide notice to the non-petitioning parent was made, the action may proceed.

End Notes

* If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter via email, reply to this message with "no thanks" in the message. Call the Legal Resource Center if you no longer want this newsletter via postal mail.

* Comments about this newsletter are welcome. Please contact the library at (608) 266-6316 or paula.seeger@wicourts.gov. If you think others would enjoy this newsletter, feel free to forward it.