



Surname Changes for Marriage Act & Civil Union Act

Do you wish for your surnames to remain as they are or do you wish to change them?

You have the following options:

1. Keep your original surnames as they are (current legal status, or a previous legal surname)
2. Change to either party's surname
3. Use both surnames to create a double-barrel surname
4. Use any previous legal surname along with your spouse's surname.

Please note that changing your surnames when you get married legally, means that through your marriage documents your surnames will be changed on the *population register* but **not on your ID books**.

The next process is a separate one, and is handled by Home Affairs and *not* the presiding Pastor or church that has married you.

This means that if you change your surnames, once you are legally married, you will need to:

1. Take your ID books along with your marriage certificate to the nearest Home Affairs office and request your ID documents are changed to the surnames which will then appear on their system from the marriage.
2. They will need to send documents away and this might take some time for them to re-issue new ID books.

ANC Contract

- a) Do you have any ANC agreement? -If so, this must be presented in the form of a stamped letter from your notary (attorney) and presented by the 1st counseling/marriage preparation meeting with the pastor.
- b) If not, you will automatically be married legally in *community of property*. This is a default clause in the Marriage Act and the Civil Union Act by law if no ANC contract is produced.

Please do not confirm invitations until the pastor has confirmed the wedding date with you in writing. Please be aware, that the counseling session/s still needs to take place as the final step, this is usually a formality but will still be a part of the final decision making process.

Regards & Blessings

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