

## **Pro Se Name Change Instructions, Petitions and Orders**

### There are a lot of pro se name change petitions:

Travis County: 757 out of 757 in 2017, 702 out of 702 in 2018.

Bexar County: roughly 600 per year.

Harris County Law Library: 11,678 unique adult and 6,689 unique child name change petition, order and instruction kit downloads in 2018

TexasLawHelp: 16,461 and 7,235 downloads in 2018 (documents, not kits)

Goals: In his Jan. 7 letter Chip asked the Rule 215 subcommittee to “report your views on the name change issue” and attached drafts provided to the Court by Trish McAllister, Executive Director of the Access to Justice Commission.

The subcommittee sought to provide the full SCAC with drafts intended to help pro se petitioners provide district courts with petitions, documents, testimony and proposed orders that satisfy applicable statutes and rules (see separate memo)

### Process:

Trish, ATJ Civil Justice Attorney Kristen Levins and Pete Schenckan met Jan. 25 met to discuss the drafts.

The subcommittee reviewed, commented, and asked questions by email. Trish and Kristen made changes and gave explanations March 25.

Notified April 29 that this issue was on the May 3 agenda, Pete reached out to the family law section leadership.

Chris Nickelson immediately provided useful comments. Trish and Kristen revised the drafts. Chip agreed to postpone SCAC discussion to permit wider family law bar comments.

Chris Nickelson and Chris Wrampelmeier provided additional comments June 14, discussed by phone June 17 with the subcommittee, Trish and Kristen.

Trish and Kristen made further changes in response.