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| STATE OF NORTH CAROLINACOUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICEDISTRICT COURT DIVISION\_\_ SP \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| IN THE MATTER OF THE CHANGE OF NAME OF:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_TO:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | **MOTION TO SEAL AND FOR EXEMPTION FROM NOTICE** |

 NOW COMES, Petitioner \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (“Petitioner”) and hereby moves this Court for an Order to seal all documents in the above-captioned matter pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 1-72.1(d) and to exempt Petitioner from the requirement of N.C.G.S § 101-2(a) to give ten days’ notice of the application to change Petitioner’s name by publication at the courthouse door. In support of this motion, Petitioners shows the Court the following:

1. Petitioner filed an Application for Adult Name Change in the above-captioned matter under N.C.G.S. Chapter 101.
2. Special Proceedings files are available to the public and are, or will be, readily available to the public due to the implementation of eCourts.
3. Without sealing, the information contained within the filings of the above-captioned matter will thus be readily available to the public due to the implementation of eCourts.
4. Whether to seal a record is in the discretion of the Court. The trial court may limit the public’s right to access to civil court proceedings and records when there is a compelling countervailing public interest and sealing of documents is required to protect such countervailing public interest.
5. The above-captioned matter contains personal and private information relating to Petitioner, specifically \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
6. It is probable that Petitioner will experience negative outcomes if members of the public are permitted to read the personal and private information contained in the above-captioned matter. Specifically, Petitioner is concerned that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
7. Petitioner’s request to seal the above-captioned matter is aligned with the public policy of N.C.G.S. § 132-1.10 concerning the dangers of having personally identifying information available to the public.
8. Petitioner’s request to seal the above-captioned matter is also aligned with the public policy of N.C.G.S. § 101-2(c), which specifically provides that an applicant’s name change is not a matter of public record if the applicant is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Additionally, N.C.G.S. § 101-2(b) exempts survivors of the ten days’ notice of the application to change Petitioner’s name by publication at the courthouse door.
9. Petitioner contends that the personal and privacy concerns in the above-captioned matter are similar to the personal and privacy concerns of N.C.G.S. § 132-1.10 and N.C.G.S. § 101-2(c) such that sealing the above-captioned matter and exempting Petitioner from the ten-day notice requirement is warranted here.
10. Therefore, consistent with G.S. §1-72.1(d) and the policy reasons behind N.C.G.S. § 132-1.10 and N.C.G.S. § 101-2(c), Petitioner respectfully requests that the above-referenced matter be sealed and not a public record, be maintained separately from other records, withheld from public inspection, not accessible on eCourts or online, and examined only by order of the court or with the written consent of the Petitioner.
11. Petitioner further respectfully requests that Petitioner be exempt from the ten-day notice requirement of N.C.G.S § 101-2(a). Publishing Petitioner’s intent to change their name on the courthouse door would make public the same information Petitioner seeks sealed in this motion. Specifically, Petitioner is concerned that publishing their intent to change their name would \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner respectfully requests that the Court enter an Order:

1. Sealing the above-captioned matter;
2. Exempting Petitioner from the ten-day notice requirement of N.C.G.S § 101-2(a); and
3. Such other and further relief as determined by the Court.

This the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.