

Robert Little
Final project description
May 5, 2023

Link to interview: https://apps-dev.suffolktrial.org/start/playground309NameChange/Name_change_adult_form/?from_list=1

For this project I took the Assent To Petition To Change Name Of Minor form for the Massachusetts probate court, and converted it into an online interview that would produce a form with the responses printed on the page. This form is part of the forms required for a minor to change their name. The minor would fill out their own form, then once reviewed by the responsible adult, this form would be completed, then notarized and sent to the probate court for action.

The form was relatively simple in terms of knowledge required to fill it out properly. The only information was the names of the child and the name of the adult. This form is designed to be easy to fill out and is intended to be a check that the guardian is aware and approving of the name change of the minor.

In order to create this form, I took the PDF provided by the court, and named the fields in the free Gavel tool. I then ran the PDF through the weaver and uploaded it to Docassemble. Once I Docassemble I was able to code the questions to fall in the correct order, say the correct thing, and implement those necessary questions for the guardian to fill out. At the time of submission, all spaces for the guardian are functioning. The only spaces that are not able to be filled out are those for the notary.

I encountered several issues in creating the form in Docassemble however was able to use the office hours and other resources in order to correct those issues. The issues included

the disappearance of the signature question, the incorrect order of the questions, and the creation of pages that did not require an input. Those pages being the final three pages before for signature.

I had several versions of this form in testing however the two versions that I pushed for a response were before the implantation of those final three pages and after implementation. The reviews in the first round gave me an indication that the users may be breezing through the document. On the second round offered more confusion and questioning over the newly imputed questions.

This response was exactly the result I was looking for. In the first round I was worried that a guardian may not pay the appropriate attention and sign the form without understanding what was going to happen. With the addition of the questions, that attention become focused and questions were asked. This form is not designed to be an easy way for kids to dupe their caretaker into a name change, the way they would get permission to go on a field trip.

At the time of submission, the form is in a working order as a minimum viable product, however would need some more work before it becomes something to push to users. Some issues that need addressing is general client facing organization. Wording, order, design are all factors that would have to be adjusted to make it the most comfortable for its users. Another aspect that I think is important to all court forms is translations. Not everyone in the Commonwealth can speak English fluently enough to be confident in what they are signing for. Finally, I think the last necessary change would be some kind of Notary integration. At a

minimum the yelp list of Notary near me, but it would be better to give users the opportunity to schedule an appointment with one or someone at the courthouse.