

NAMES ACT

Passed 15.12.2004 ([RT I 2005, 1, 1](#)), entered into force 31.03.2005.

Amended by the following Acts:

20.05.2009 ([RT I 2009, 30, 177](#)) 1.07.2010

18.11.2009 ([RT I 2009, 60, 395](#)) 1.07.2010

10.12.2009 ([RT I 2010, 1, 1](#)) 1.07.2010

Chapter 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 1. Scope of application of Act

This Act provides for the principles of and the procedure for the assigning and application of names of natural persons (hereinafter personal name) and the bases for the uniform use of personal names of aliens staying in Estonia (hereinafter person).

§ 2. Application of Acts

(1) The Administrative Procedure Act applies to administrative proceedings applied upon assigning and application of personal names, taking account of the specifications provided for in this Act.

(2) The provisions regulating civil proceedings apply to proceedings applied upon assigning and application of personal names by a court.

(3) The Vital Statistics Registration Act shall be applied in issues not regulated by this Act.

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

§ 3. Definitions

(1) A personal name is the official name of a person which is entered in the population register in the cases provided by law. A personal name consists of a given name and a surname.

(2) Assigning a personal name means the first recording of the personal name by an Estonian administrative authority or court.

(3) Application of a personal name means documentation of a personal name entered in a document issued to a person in a foreign state by an Estonian administrative authority or court and, if necessary, the rules of transcription of non-Estonian personal names from other alphabets (hereinafter transcription rules for non-Estonian personal names) is applied.

§ 3¹. Use of personal name

(1) The personal names entered into the population register are presumed to be correct. If a person is not a subject of the population register, the name contained in his or her identification document is considered as his or her official name.

(2) If a change under the names law has been made in the data of a person in a foreign country, the person shall submit the document underlying the change under the names law to an Estonian vital statistics office for entering the data into the population register within 30 days from the change having been made. Until the entry of the change under the names law into the population register the name stated in the person's identification document shall be considered his or her official name.

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

§ 3². Name entry

(1) A name entry is an aggregate of data entered into the population register concerning a change under the names law.

(2) A change under the names law may be made by an Estonian vital statistics office or court on the conditions and in accordance with the procedure stipulated in this Act.

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

§ 4. Assigning and application of personal name

(1) [Repealed – [RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

(2) An Estonian administrative authority or court may assign a personal name to a citizen of a foreign state or to an alien temporarily staying in Estonia who is not a citizen of any state, except in the cases provided for in Division 2 of Chapter 3 of this Act.

(3) A personal name shall be applied to a citizen of a foreign state or an alien temporarily staying in Estonia who is not a citizen of any state in the course of documentation of his or her personal data in Estonia for the first time on the basis of the name assigned or applied by a foreign state.

(4) Application of a personal name does not change the official name of the person. Upon documentation of a personal name, the number and order of names in the same personal name and the spelling of the given name or the surname cannot be changed. As an exception, the spelling of a name may be changed on the basis of an application of a person, if the person has been assigned a surname in a foreign country and the spelling of the name reflects the gender, marital status or other feature of the person pursuant to the national tradition of the person.

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

(5) Upon assigning a personal name to a child who is ten years of age or older, his or her consent is required. The wishes of a child younger than ten years of age shall also be considered if the development level of the child so permits. The consent of a minor shall be determined by an official, who shall confirm it with his or her signature on the application to assign a name.

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

(6) [Repealed – [RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

(7) The administrative body applying a personal name shall forward the documents underlying the application of a personal name to a vital statistics office for entering a change under the names law.

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

§ 5. Orthography of personal names

(1) A personal name shall be written using Estonian-Latin letters and symbols and, if necessary, the transcription rules for non-Estonian personal names shall be used.

(2) The spelling of an Estonian personal name shall be in accordance with the rules of orthography of the Estonian language. The spelling of a non-Estonian personal name shall be in accordance with the rules of orthography of the relevant language.

(3) A personal name shall be applied:

- 1) on the basis of the name entered in the source document according to the transcription rules for non-Estonian personal names;
- 2) in the absence of the possibility specified in clause 1) of this subsection, by the transcription of the non-Latin name entered in the source document with Estonian-Latin letters, which shall be done according to the transcription rules for non-Estonian personal names or, in the absence of the rules, on the basis of the recommendation of the Office of Onomastic Expertise.

(4) Upon application of a personal name, only one of the manners specified in subsection (3) of this section shall be used at the same time.

(5) In the cases provided by law, a given name or a surname may be presented in a shortened form.

(6) The list of Estonian-Latin letters and symbols used upon assigning and application of personal names and the transcription rules for non-Estonian personal names shall be established by a regulation of the Government of the Republic.

§ 6. Requirements for surnames

(1) A surname may consist:

- 1) upon assigning, of one name or two names linked by an hyphen;
- 2) upon application, of one or several names.

(2) In this Act, the surnames of persons who are or have been married to each other, are related or are or have been related by marriage and the spelling of which coincides letter by letter, and also names the differences in the spelling of which are caused due to the reflection of gender, marital status or other feature in the name pursuant to the national tradition of the persons are deemed to be joint surnames.

(3) Features on the basis of which surnames are considered as joint surnames shall be established by a regulation of the Minister of Regional Affairs.

(4) In the case of doubt with respect to the accuracy of a national or an ethnical name form, an administrative authority or a court assigning or applying the surname shall address the Office of Onomastic Expertise or a diplomatic representation of the corresponding state in order to obtain explanations.

(5) A surname cannot contain numbers or non-alphabetical signs or be separately or together with the given name in conflict with good morals.

[RT I 2010, 1, 1 – entered into force 1.07.2010]

(6) An exception may be made to the provisions of paragraph (1) of this section, if due to citizenship, family relations, nationality or religion, a person has a personal connection to the foreign-language name tradition and the name applied for complies therewith.

[RT I 2010, 1, 1 – entered into force 1.07.2010]

(7) The requirements stipulated in this section do not extend to the application of a surname.

[RT I 2010, 1, 1 – entered into force 1.07.2010]

§ 7. Requirements for given names

(1) A given name may consist:

- 1) upon assigning, of not more than three names written as several words or two names linked by a hyphen;
- 2) upon application, of one or several names.

(1¹) A given name in a foreign language has to be in use as a given name in a foreign country.

[\[RTI 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

(2) A name which contains numbers or non-alphabetical signs or which separately or together with the surname is in conflict with good morals shall not be assigned as a given name.

(3) The following shall not be assigned as a given name without good reason:

- 1) an unconventional given name which is not suitable to be used as a given name due to its complex spelling or pronunciation, or spelling or pronunciation which does not comply with the general language use, or due to its meaning in the general language;
- 3) a well-known name used as a personal name or a shortened version of the name, a name of a well-known author or a service name. For the purposes of this Act, a service name is a name which is used upon performance of official duties, but which is not the official name of the person.

(4) Exceptions to the provisions of subsections (2) and (3) of this section may be made if, due to their citizenship, family relations, nationality or other circumstances, a child or the parents of a child have personal connection to the foreign-language name tradition and the name applied for complies therewith.

Chapter 2 ASSIGNING PERSONAL NAME TO CHILD

§ 8. Assigning personal name to child born alive

(1) A child born alive shall be assigned:

- 1) the surname of the parents if the parents have a joint surname;
- 2) the surname of one of the parents upon agreement between the parents having different surnames. If they fail to reach an agreement, a guardianship authority shall decide which surname is assigned to the child;
- 3) the surname of the mother if paternal filiation is not established.

(2) A surname consisting of two names assigned to a parent upon marriage shall not be assigned to a child as a family name. If the surname of both parents consists of two names assigned upon marriage, the surname of one of the parents shall be assigned to the child upon agreement between the parents. This paragraph shall not be applied to a name consisting of two names obtained under the circumstances stipulated in paragraph 8(1)3).

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

(2¹) If a sister or brother of a child has a surname consisting of two names, which coincides with the surname of the parent consisting of two names, the child may, as an exception, be assigned the surname of the parent consisting of two names. Multiple siblings born at one birth shall be assigned the same surname.

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

(3) A given name shall be assigned to a child upon agreement between the parents or on the proposal of the single parent or guardian of the child. If the right of curatorship regarding a child belongs to only one of the parents, a given name shall be assigned to the child on the proposal of the parent. If there is no agreement or no proposal is made, a guardianship authority shall decide which given name is assigned to the child.

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

(4) A surname and a given name shall be assigned to a foundling on the basis of an application of a guardianship authority.

§ 8¹. Assigning new surname to child upon descent

(1) If the parents of a child are not married and the father recognises the child after the registration of birth, the child may be assigned the surname of the father.

(2) Upon the settlement of a case of descent of a child in court, the court may assign a new surname to the child.

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

§ 9. Specifications for assigning personal name to stillborn child

(1) A surname and, at the request of a parent or parents, also a given name shall be assigned to a stillborn child.

(2) The principles described in § 8 of this Act shall be considered upon assigning a surname and a given name.

Chapter 3 ASSIGNING NEW PERSONAL NAME

Division 1 Assigning New Personal Name or Restoration of Personal Name

§ 10. Assigning surname upon contraction of marriage

(1) Upon contraction of marriage, a person shall choose a new surname or keep the current surname.

(2) A new surname may:

- 1) be a joint surname with the spouse which is the last surname of the spouse before marriage;
- 2) consist of the surname last borne before marriage and the surname of the spouse following it.

(3) A new surname assigned pursuant to clause (2) 2) of this section shall not consist of more than two names linked by a hyphen and a surname assigned in such form may be borne by only one of the spouses.

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

§ 11. Restoration of surname upon divorce

(1) Upon a divorce, a court or a vital statistics office may restore the previous surname of a person on the basis of his or her application, otherwise the surname borne during marriage shall be preserved.

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

(2) A restored surname may be:

- 1) the surname last borne before the marriage being divorced;
- 2) the surname last borne before the first marriage.

§ 12. Restoration of surname upon annulment of marriage

Upon annulment of a marriage, the surname of a person last borne before the marriage being annulled shall be restored.

§ 13. Assigning personal name upon adoption

(1) Upon adoption, a court may assign a new given name and the surname of the adoptive parent(s) to the child on the basis of the application of the adoptive parent(s).

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

(2) Upon assigning a new given name and the surname of the adoptive parent(s), the provisions of subsections 8 (1) and (2) of this Act shall be taken account of in the case of a surname and the provisions of § 7 and subsection 8 (3) of this Act shall be taken account of in the case of a given name.

(3) In the cases specified in this section, the consent of the person specified in subsection 4 (5) of this Act is required.

§ 14. Restoration of personal name upon declaration of invalidity of adoption

(1) Upon declaration of invalidity of adoption, the personal name of the child before adoption shall be restored.

(2) In the case specified in subsection (1) of this section, the consent of the person specified in subsection 4 (5) of this Act is required.

[\[RT I 2009, 60, 395](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

§ 15. Assigning new personal name due to change of gender of person

(1) If the gender of a person is changed, a vital statistics office may, on the basis of a written application of the person, the parent(s) of the minor or of the guardian of the minor ward, assign a new given name to the person and change a foreign-language surname of the person if the gender feature is reflected in the surname pursuant to the national tradition of the person.

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

(2) Upon assigning a new given name, the requirements and restrictions provided for in § 7 of this Act shall be complied with.

Division 2

Assigning New Personal Name at Request of Person

§ 16. Assigning new personal name at request of person

(1) In order to be assigned a new given name, surname or personal name, a person shall submit a standard format application to a vital statistics office. Upon application for a new surname or a new personal name to be assigned, the assigning a new surname to the minor children of the person may also be applied for.

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

(2) An application specified in subsection (1) of this section shall set out the following information:

- 1) the given name, surname, personal identification code or date of birth, place of birth, place of living, contact details (including telephone number and e-mail address), citizenship and marital status of the person;
- 2) upon application for a new surname, information provided for in clause 1) of this subsection regarding the minor children of the person who bear the same name with the applicant and who wish to be assigned the new surname of their parent;
- 3) the reasons for application for a new given name, surname or personal name;
- 4) the desired new given name, surname or personal name;
- 5) the consent of the person specified in subsection 4 (5) of this Act;

- 6) the nationality of the person;
- 7) the mother-tongue of the person;
- 8) the education of the person;
- 9) the field of activity of the person.

[[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

(3) The provisions of § 17¹ of this Act shall be complied with upon assigning a new surname and the provisions of § 19 of this Act shall be complied with upon assigning a new given name.

[[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

(4) In general cases, a new given name, surname or personal name is assigned to a person pursuant to this section only once. A person shall be assigned a new given name, surname or personal name more than once only with good reason.

(5) A person has the right to abandon a given name, surname or personal name assigned pursuant to this section and apply for the restoration of the previous given name, surname or personal name.

(6) [Repealed – [RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

(6¹) Assigning a new surname on the bases stipulated in subsection 17¹(1) of this Act or restoration of a previous personal name and assigning a new given name on the bases stipulated in paragraphs 19(1)4) to 8) shall be decided by an administrative act of the Minister of Regional Affairs or a person authorised by the Minister of Regional Affairs. Assigning a new surname on the bases stipulated in subsection 17¹(2) of this Act and assigning a new given name on the bases stipulated in paragraphs 19(1)1) to 3) and 9) shall be decided by the Minister of Regional Affairs.

[[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

(7) A state fee shall be paid for making a decision on assigning a new given name, surname or personal name or restoration of a given name, surname or personal name by an administrative act of the Minister of Regional Affairs or a person authorised by the Minister of Regional Affairs.

[[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

(8) A detailed list of information to be submitted in an application specified in subsection (1) of this section [shall be established by a regulation of the Government of the Republic](#).

(9) The procedure and format of applications for assigning a new given name, surname or personal name to a person [shall be established by a regulation of the Minister of Regional Affairs](#).

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

(10) The data specified in paragraphs (2)6) to 9) of this section are collected for statistical purposes and the applicant shall be informed that the submission of the data is voluntary.

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

(11) As proof of identity, the applicant shall present the document specified in paragraphs 2(2)1) to 8) or section 4 of the Identity Documents Act, except upon submitting an application verified by digital signature.

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

§ 17 [Repealed – [RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

§ 17¹. Assigning new surname at request of person

(1) A new surname shall be assigned, if a person:

- 1) wishes to use the surname of parents or grandparents or great-grandparents;
- 2) wishes to use, in the case of a surname consisting of several names, only one of these names;
- 3) wishes to bear the same surname as the spouse or add the surname of the spouse after his or her surname;
- 4) has been widowed and wishes to bear the surname last borne before marriage;
- 5) wishes to use a surname established in actual usage, which differs from the personal name entered into a document or the population register due to writing of the name as one or several words or the use of a symbol, which is not a letter (an apostrophe, an hyphen) or single characters and complies with the requirements of this Act;
- 6) wishes to use, in the case of a surname consisting of two names in brackets, one of these names without brackets;
- 7) wishes to use the surname in the form entered into the population register, which differs from the name form entered into the document that is the basis of assigning the name to the person due to the application of transcription rules;
- 8) wishes to assign to his or her minor child the surname, which the person obtained after marrying the other parent of the child after the registration of the birth of the child and which is the joint surname of the parents.

(2) A new surname may be assigned upon a justified request of a person, if the person:

- 1) wishes to abandon an unconventional surname which is not suitable to be used as a surname due to its complex spelling or pronunciation, or spelling or pronunciation which does not comply with the Estonian language use, or due to its meaning in the general language;
- 2) wishes to abandon his or her current surname, if the personal name of the person coincides with the personal name of another person;
- 3) wishes to avoid harmful consequences of social or economic nature arising from the personal name;

- 4) wishes to use an Estonian surname;
- 5) wishes to change the surname for another good reason.

(3) Upon assigning a person a new surname on the basis of subsection (2) of this section, the new surname cannot be:

- 1) a name which is not suitable to be used as a surname due to its complex spelling or pronunciation, or spelling or pronunciation which does not comply with the Estonian language use, or due to its meaning in the general language;
- 2) a name which according to the population register data is used by 1–20 living persons;
- 3) a name in the case of which the new personal name and year of birth of a person would coincide with the personal name and year of birth of another living person;
- 4) a name which is too widespread;
- 5) a name which is used as a given name;
- 6) a name of a well-known historical figure or a famous family;
- 7) a name referring to a legal person or a protected alphabetical part of a registered trademark or a name of the state, local government and the bodies and institutions thereof;
- 8) a name, in the case of assigning of which the given name and the surname of the person would be the same;
- 9) a surname of the parents consisting of two names.

(4) An exception may be made to the provisions of subsection (3) of this section, if the person changing his or her surname has a personal relation to the foreign-language name tradition due to citizenship, family relations, nationality or other circumstances and the name applied for complies therewith.

(5) For the purposes of this Act, a too widespread surname is a surname which is borne by 500 or more persons according to data in the population register. The list of too widespread surnames shall be [established by a regulation of the Minister of Regional Affairs](#) and the list shall be renewed in every three years.

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

§ 18 [Repealed – [RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

§ 19. Reasons for application for new given name at request of person

(1) The following may be the reasons for application for a new given name on the basis of § 16 of this Act:

- 1) a wish to abandon an unconventional given name which is not suitable to be used as a given name due to its complex spelling or pronunciation, or spelling or pronunciation which does not comply with the Estonian language use, or due to its meaning in the general language;

2) a wish to protect the personal name of a person, if it coincides with the personal name of another person;

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

3) a wish to avoid harmful consequences of social or economic nature arising from the name;

4) a wish to change the number or order of names in the given name;

5) [Repealed – [RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

6) a wish to use a given name established in actual usage, which differs from the given name entered into a document or the population register due to writing of the name as one or several words or the use of a symbol, which is not a letter (an apostrophe, an hyphen) or single characters and complies with the requirements of this Act;

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

7) a wish to use, in the case of a given name consisting of two names in brackets, one of these names without brackets;

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

8) a wish to use the given name in the form entered into the population register, which differs from the name form entered into the document that is the basis of assigning the name to the person due to the application of transcription rules;

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

9) a wish to change the given name for another good reason.

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

(2) [Repealed – [RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

(3) Upon changing the given name of a person on the basis of subsection (1) of this section, the new given name cannot be:

1) a name which is not suitable to be used as a given name due to its complex spelling or pronunciation, or spelling or pronunciation which does not comply with the Estonian language use, or due to its meaning in the general language;

2) a name in the case of which the given name and the surname of a person would be the same;

3) a name in the case of which the new personal name and year of birth of a person would coincide with the personal name and year of birth of another living person.

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

Division 3

[Repealed – [RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

Chapter 4

ORGANISATION OF PERSONAL NAMES

§ 21. Application in Estonia of personal names assigned or applied in foreign state

(1) A personal name assigned or applied in a foreign state shall be applied in Estonia to an Estonian citizen or a person staying in Estonia on the basis of a residence permit who is not a citizen of any state pursuant to this section.

(2) [Repealed – [RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

(2¹) A name shall be applied on the basis of a birth, marriage or divorce document or another document verifying the change of personal name issued in a foreign country.

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

(3) The requirements of this Act regarding personal names upon assigning the personal names shall be complied with upon commencement of use of personal names assigned or applied in a foreign state and:

- 1) at the request of a person, the personal name assigned or applied to him or her in a foreign state shall be preserved if the personal name is written in Estonian-Latin letters;
- 2) personal names may be restored in the form preceding the assigning or application of personal names by a foreign state;
- 3) in the case of a divorce, the personal name of a person which was last borne before marriage or last borne before first marriage may be restored in the form used in Estonia.

(4) The name contained in the foreign document, which is not a part of the given name or the surname, shall be considered as part of the given name and added after the given name.

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

§ 22. Replacement of personal name with applied personal name

The personal name of a citizen of a foreign state or an alien temporarily staying in Estonia who is not a citizen of any state, which is entered in a document by an Estonian administrative authority or court shall be used together with a corresponding document until the person has not submitted a document of the foreign state which sets out the name assigned or applied to the person by the foreign state, and the personal name has not been assigned on the basis of the document.

§ 23. Amendment of entry concerning personal name

(1) A person has the right to apply for the amendment of his or her personal name and the personal name of his or her minor child if:

1) an incorrect personal name which does not comply with the requirements of this Act has been entered in a document or in the population register;

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

2) [Repealed – [RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

3) upon application of a personal name, the list of Estonian-Latin letters and symbols used upon assigning and application of personal names and the transcription rules for non-Estonian personal names, which are established by the Government of the Republic, have not been complied with.

(2) An administrative authority which has issued a document shall amend an incorrect personal name entered in the document immediately after identification and ascertaining of the mistake on the basis of an application of the person. The chief processor, authorised processor or contractual processor of the database shall amend an incorrect personal name entered in the population register on the own initiative thereof or on the basis of an application of a person immediately after identification and ascertaining of the mistake and shall inform the person regarding whose personal name the amendment was made of the amendment.

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

(3) If a personal name is entered in the population register, an entry concerning the personal name shall be amended on the basis of the personal name entered in the population register.

§ 24. Challenging of assigning or application of personal name

(1) A person who finds that his or her rights have been violated in the course of the proceedings regarding the assigning or application of a personal name or who does not consent to the personal name assigned or applied to him or her or his or her minor child or to refusal to assign or apply a personal name may submit a challenge to the Ministry of Internal Affairs within thirty days. Calculation of the term commences as of the date when the person becomes aware or should have become aware of the violation of his or her rights, of the personal name assigned or applied to him or her, or of a decision to refuse assigning or application of a personal name.

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

(2) The Ministry of Internal Affairs shall review a challenge and make a decision concerning the challenge within thirty days after submission of the challenge after hearing the opinion of the Personal Names Committee if necessary.

§ 25. Personal Names Committee

(1) The Minister of Regional Affairs shall form an advisory Personal Names Committee with five to seven members within the area of government of the Ministry and shall establish the statutes of the Committee a [establish the statutes of the Committee](#).

[\[RT I 2010, 1, 1](#) – entered into force 1.07.2010]

(2) The members, including the chairman of the Personal Names Committee shall be appointed by the Minister of Regional Affairs.

(3) The Personal Names Committee shall:

- 1) provide recommendations to the Minister of Regional Affairs if assigning or application of a personal name is challenged;
- 2) provide recommendations to the Minister of Regional Affairs regarding answers to questions on and resolution of problems relating to the assigning or application of personal names;
- 3) make proposals to the Minister of Regional Affairs regarding initiation of amendment of legislation concerning the assigning and application of personal names;
- 4) provide explanations regarding the compliance of personal names with good morals and given names not corresponding to the gender;
- 5) perform other functions given to the Committee by its statutes.

(4) The Personal Names Committee has the right to:

- 1) receive expert assessments on the subject of personal names from the Office of Onomastic Expertise;
- 2) receive answers from state and local government authorities to questions on the assigning and application of personal names;
- 3) prepare instructions and explanations which are approved by a directive of the Minister of Regional Affairs in order to explain and publicise the Names Act.

(5) Upon making a decision, the Personal Names Committee shall use the expert assessment of the Office of Onomastic Expertise.

§ 26. Office of Onomastic Expertise

(1) The function of the Office of Onomastic Expertise in the field of personal names is to provide expert assessments regarding names.

(2) The Government of the Republic shall, on the proposal of the Minister of Regional Affairs, designate a research institution with scientific staff specialising in onomastics as the Office of Onomastic Expertise.

Chapter 5
IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT

§-d 27–30 [Omitted from this text]

§ 31. Validity of personal name in use

(1) A personal name which is in use upon the entry into force of this Act and which does not comply with the requirements of law shall be used until a personal name is assigned, restored or applied.

(2) The restriction provided for in subsection 16 (4) of this Act does not apply retroactively to persons who have changed their names before the entry into force of this Act.

§ 32. Entry into force of Act

This Act enters into force on 31 March 2005.