

IN RE: : IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF  
VIKRAM GURPREET RANGRU : LYCOMING COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
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:  
: NO. 05-00,859  
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:  
: CHANGE OF NAME

*Date: July 22, 2005*

**MEMORANDUM OPINION and ORDER**

Before the court for determination is the Petition for Change of Name filed by Petitioner Lori Eakin on May 10, 2005. Petitioner Eakin seeks to change the name of her minor child from Vikram Gurpreet Rangru to Vikram Robert Eakin. The court will grant the petition because the name change will serve the best interests of the child.

The best interests of the child is the standard that guides a court's determination of whether to permit a change of name for a minor. *In re C.R.C.*, 819 A.2d 558, 560 (Pa. Super. 2003). The best interests standard is to be applied on a case by case basis and take into consideration all factors that legitimately have an effect upon the child's physical, intellectual, moral, and spiritual well-being. *Id.* at 561. The court should look at, inter alia, the natural bonds between parent and child, the social stigma or respect afforded a particular name within the community, and, where the child is of sufficient age, whether the child intellectually and rationally understands the significance of changing his or her name. *Id.* at 560. The petitioning

party bears the burden of establishing that the change of name is in the best interests of the child. *Ibid.*

The best interests of the minor child are served by permitting the change of name. Close bonds with people who care for him are necessary for the physical, intellectual, moral, and spiritual well-being of a child. The minor child has developed a strong familial bond with the Eakin family. The Eakin family has been his primary source of care since his birth. The change of name will further reinforce this bond; therefore, it is in the minor child's best interests.

In contrast, the minor child has no bond with the Respondent father, Gurpreet Rangru, and his family. Respondent father's conduct following the birth of the minor child could be characterized as abandonment, and was of such an extent that it would justify the termination of his parental rights. Respondent Rangru and his family have had limited meaningful contact with the minor child. As such, the change of name does little harm to a relationship that does not exist. At the hearing regarding the change of name petition, Respondent Rangru expressed a desire to establish a relationship with his son. The court hopes Respondent Rangru is sincere and will take the appropriate steps to towards this end. It will be Respondent's actions, and not words, though they may even be the father's surname, which will establish the close familial bond with his son.

Accordingly, the petition for change of name is granted.

**ORDER**

It is hereby ordered that the Petition for Change of Name filed by Petitioner Lori Eakin on May 10, 2005 is GRANTED.

The minor child's name shall be changed from VIKRAM GURPREET RANGRU to VIKRAM ROBERT EAKIN.

BY THE COURT:

William S. Kieser, Judge

cc: Christopher M. Williams, Esquire  
Joy Reynolds McCoy, Esquire  
Judges  
Christian J. Kalas, Esquire  
Gary L. Weber, Esquire (Lycoming Reporter)