

Legal Analysis of Name Change as a Form of Personal Identity Protection: A Case Study of District Court Decision Number 196/Pdt.P/2024/PN Jbg

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Abstract

Name change constitutes an important legal mechanism within Indonesia's population administration system to ensure the consistency and legal validity of personal identity recorded in official documents. However, inconsistencies in identity data caused by differences in name spelling, historical recording errors, and undocumented name changes continue to create legal uncertainty and administrative obstacles, as reflected in District Court Decision Number 196/Pdt.P/2024/PN Jbg. This study aims to analyze the judge's legal considerations in granting the application for a name change and to examine the role of name change as a form of legal protection for personal identity. This research employs a normative legal research method using statutory, conceptual, and case approaches, supported by primary and secondary legal materials analyzed through qualitative methods. The findings indicate that the court granted the application after the applicant successfully proved inconsistencies in identity data across several official documents and demonstrated that the requested name change did not violate statutory provisions or public interests. The court's decision was based on documentary evidence, witness testimony, and the applicable population administration laws. Furthermore, the decision confirms that a court-approved name change provides legal certainty, harmonizes population administration records, strengthens legal recognition of an individual's identity, and facilitates access to public administrative services. Therefore, a judicial determination of a name change functions not only as an administrative correction but also as an effective legal instrument for protecting personal identity and ensuring legal certainty within Indonesia's population administration system.

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1. INTRODUCTION

A legal identity is an essential element in ensuring the recognition and protection of every citizen's civil rights. Within Indonesia's population administration system, a person's name serves as the primary legal identifier that must be consistently recorded across all official documents. Any discrepancy in identity records may result in legal uncertainty, administrative barriers, and difficulties in accessing public services. To prevent such consequences, Indonesian population administration law requires that a name change be authorized through a court determination before it can be officially registered by the Civil Registration Office. This legal mechanism reflects the state's commitment to protecting personal identity while maintaining the accuracy and reliability of population administration records (Fortuna & Nuswardhani, 2022).

The development of integrated digital population administration has increased the importance of maintaining accurate and consistent identity data. Through the implementation of the Population Administration Information System (SIAK) and Digital Population Identity, personal data are interconnected across various government institutions, making consistency in identity records a prerequisite for effective public services. Consequently, discrepancies in names recorded in different official documents may hinder administrative processes and reduce legal certainty for citizens (Permadi & Rokhman, 2023; Taftahzani *et al.*, 2025).

Several previous studies have examined the legal aspects of name changes from different perspectives. Fortuna and Nuswardhani (2022) focused on the legal procedures and consequences of changing a person's name under Indonesian law. Meanwhile, Aprianti, Sukarno, and Zain (2024) analyzed the legal validity of name changes in birth certificates based on positive law, emphasizing the importance of legal procedures in maintaining the authenticity of civil registration documents. Bilal, Soepeno, and Kapugu (2025) further discussed the legal consequences of court-approved name changes from the perspective of civil law, concluding that judicial authorization provides legal certainty for individuals whose identities require harmonization across official documents. These studies consistently demonstrate that judicial approval constitutes an essential legal requirement for ensuring the validity of changes to personal identity.

Despite these contributions, previous research has primarily concentrated on procedural requirements, statutory implementation, and the legal consequences of name changes. Limited attention has been given to judicial reasoning in determining whether a name change serves as an instrument for protecting personal identity rather than merely correcting administrative records. Moreover, there has been little discussion regarding District Court Decision Number 196/Pdt.P/2024/PN Jbg, which presents a unique legal issue concerning inconsistencies in an applicant's identity across multiple population documents and the court's role in resolving such inconsistencies through judicial determination.

Accordingly, the scientific novelty of this article lies in analyzing a name change as a legal mechanism for protecting personal identity through judicial intervention rather than solely as an administrative procedure. By examining District Court Decision Number 196/Pdt.P/2024/PN Jbg, this study provides a normative legal analysis of the court's reasoning and evaluates how judicial authorization contributes to legal certainty, identity protection, and the harmonization of population administration records. Therefore, this article aims to analyze the judge's legal considerations in granting the application for a name change and to examine the function of judicially approved name changes as a form of personal identity protection within Indonesia's population administration system..

2. METHOD

This study employed a normative legal research method to examine the legal issues concerning name change as a form of personal identity protection through judicial determination. Normative legal research focuses on legal norms contained in legislation, court decisions, and legal doctrines to analyze the application of law in resolving specific legal issues (Ali, 2021). The research adopted three complementary approaches: the statutory approach, the conceptual approach, and the case approach. The statutory approach was used to examine the legal framework governing name changes under Indonesia's population administration laws. The conceptual approach was applied to analyze legal concepts related to legal certainty, legal protection, and personal identity. Meanwhile, the case approach focused on District Court Decision Number 196/Pdt.P/2024/PN Jbg as the primary object of analysis.

The legal materials consisted of primary, secondary, and tertiary legal sources. Primary legal materials included the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, Law Number 24 of 2013 concerning Population Administration, relevant implementing regulations, and District Court Decision Number 196/Pdt.P/2024/PN Jbg. Secondary legal materials comprised books, scholarly journal articles, and other academic publications discussing population administration, civil law, and legal protection, while tertiary legal materials included legal dictionaries and encyclopedias used to clarify legal terminology (Marzuki, 2021).

Legal materials were collected through library research by identifying, classifying, and reviewing relevant legal sources. The collected materials were then analyzed qualitatively using descriptive and analytical techniques to interpret statutory provisions, judicial reasoning, and legal doctrines.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

a. Judicial Considerations in Granting the Application for a Name Change in District Court Decision Number 196/Pdt.P/2024/PN Jbg

District Court Decision Number 196/Pdt.P/2024/PN Jbg demonstrates that judicial authority in voluntary proceedings extends beyond merely verifying procedural compliance. In this case, the court carefully examined whether the applicant had established sufficient legal grounds to justify the requested name change and whether the proposed amendment would create legal certainty rather than legal uncertainty. The findings indicate that the court relied on documentary evidence, witness testimony, and applicable population administration regulations to determine that the discrepancies among the applicant's official documents resulted from historical inconsistencies in civil registration rather than from any intention to evade legal obligations. Consequently, the judicial determination functioned as a legal mechanism to harmonize the applicant's identity across all official population records, thereby ensuring consistency within the national population administration system.

The legal reasoning adopted by the court is consistent with the principle that judicial authorization is an essential requirement for validating changes to civil identity. Benu, Mauritsius, and Pello (2025) argue that amendments to personal identity recorded in civil registration documents must comply with statutory procedures to maintain the authenticity and legal validity of population records. Similarly, Niska, Wahyuni, and Basri (2026) emphasize that the court plays a central role in verifying both the legal basis and the factual justification for a name change application before authorizing amendments to official records. These findings support the judicial approach adopted in the present case, where legal certainty was achieved through a comprehensive assessment of both documentary and testimonial evidence.

The court's legal reasoning also reflects the broader objective of preventing future administrative disputes. Rather than considering the application solely as a request to modify personal data, the court evaluated the practical consequences arising from inconsistent identity records. Such inconsistencies may adversely affect legal transactions, inheritance matters, property registration, banking services, and access to other public administrative functions. This approach corresponds with the findings reported in Legal Dialogica (2025), which conclude that court-approved name changes provide legal assurance regarding the continuity of an individual's civil rights by establishing consistency among official documents. Likewise, the study published in Jurnal Yustisi (2024) demonstrates that judicial consideration in name change applications should prioritize good faith, evidentiary sufficiency, and conformity with

statutory requirements to ensure that judicial decisions promote legal certainty rather than administrative ambiguity.

Another significant finding concerns the relationship between judicial discretion and population administration governance. Although population administration authorities possess responsibility for updating civil registration data, they cannot independently authorize changes to a person's legal identity without a judicial determination. This institutional relationship reflects the separation of administrative and judicial functions established under Indonesian law. Accordingly, the court acts as the primary institution responsible for determining the legality of identity changes before administrative agencies implement corresponding amendments within the population database. Therefore, District Court Decision Number 196/Pdt.P/2024/PN Jbg illustrates that judicial consideration in voluntary proceedings serves not only to resolve individual administrative issues but also to preserve the integrity, reliability, and legal certainty of Indonesia's population administration system through the lawful harmonization of personal identity records.

b. Name Change as a Form of Personal Identity Protection and Legal Certainty

The findings of this study indicate that a court-approved name change functions not merely as an administrative correction but also as a legal instrument for protecting personal identity and strengthening legal certainty. In District Court Decision Number 196/Pdt.P/2024/PN Jbg, the applicant experienced inconsistencies in personal identity across several official population documents. Such inconsistencies created legal uncertainty because different names appearing in official records could affect the applicant's ability to exercise civil rights and access administrative services. By granting the application, the court enabled the harmonization of identity records, thereby ensuring that all official documents represented a single legally recognized identity. This demonstrates that judicial intervention plays a significant role in protecting the legal status of citizens whose identity records are inconsistent due to historical administrative circumstances rather than unlawful conduct.

The protection of personal identity through judicial authorization is closely related to the principle of legal certainty within population administration. According to Hartono (2022), legal certainty requires that all population records accurately represent the legal identity of an individual to prevent disputes and administrative inconsistencies. Likewise, Wibowo (2021) explains that civil registration documents constitute authentic legal evidence whose reliability depends upon the consistency of the recorded identity. In addition, Asikin (2019) explains that voluntary court proceedings provide legal recognition for an individual's civil status without involving disputes between opposing parties, making judicial determination the appropriate legal mechanism for authorizing changes to personal identity. These views support the present findings that harmonization of official identity records is essential for guaranteeing the validity of legal relationships and preventing future disputes arising from inconsistent documentation.

From a broader administrative perspective, legal protection of identity also contributes to improving the effectiveness of population governance. Salim (2023) argues that the implementation of population administration legislation is intended not only to regulate civil registration procedures but also to ensure equal access to public services through accurate population data. Similarly, Firmansyah (2022) emphasizes that population administration functions as an instrument of legal protection because reliable identity records enable citizens to obtain administrative recognition and exercise their civil rights without unnecessary procedural obstacles. This administrative function is reinforced by the role of civil registration authorities in maintaining accurate

population records and ensuring that legally recognized changes are properly recorded in official documents, thereby supporting orderly population administration (Tagel, 2020). Therefore, judicial approval of a name change supports both individual legal protection and the effective administration of population data at the institutional level.

The present findings further demonstrate that legal certainty and identity protection are inseparable from the recognition of identity as a fundamental civil right. Hidayati (2021) maintains that inconsistencies in population records may undermine the certainty of legal status and create practical difficulties in legal transactions involving property, inheritance, education, banking, and other civil matters. In addition, Sari (2022) argues that legal identity constitutes an essential component of human rights because it forms the basis for the state's recognition of every citizen. Accordingly, judicial determination of a name change should not be understood solely as compliance with administrative procedures but also as the realization of the state's obligation to protect the legal identity of its citizens.

This study confirms that District Court Decision Number 196/Pdt.P/2024/PN Jbg successfully fulfilled the objectives of Indonesia's population administration system by harmonizing inconsistent identity records through lawful judicial procedures. The decision not only resolved the applicant's administrative difficulties but also reinforced legal certainty, protected personal identity, and strengthened the reliability of population administration. These findings complement previous studies by demonstrating that judicial determination serves as an effective legal mechanism for integrating administrative accuracy with the broader objective of protecting citizens' legal identity within Indonesia's legal system.

4. CONCLUSION

This study concludes that the judicial determination of a name change constitutes an effective legal mechanism for protecting personal identity and ensuring legal certainty within Indonesia's population administration system. The analysis of District Court Decision Number 196/Pdt.P/2024/PN Jbg demonstrates that the court granted the application based on sufficient documentary evidence, witness testimony, and compliance with the applicable legal framework governing population administration. Rather than functioning solely as an administrative correction, the court-authorized name change harmonized inconsistent identity records, strengthened the legal recognition of the applicant's identity, and prevented potential administrative and civil disputes arising from inconsistent official documents. Accordingly, the findings confirm that judicial intervention plays a fundamental role in safeguarding citizens' identity rights by integrating legal protection, administrative accuracy, and legal certainty within the implementation of Indonesia's population administration law.

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