Legal Name Policy

Introduction

The International Association of Yoga Therapists (IAYT) has historically allowed members to identify solely by their preferred or chosen names. We will continue to recognize and to honor membership’s expression of identity through the use of non-legal names in non-official channels. However, part of becoming a recognized health profession includes operating within recognized legal standards, and that requires IAYT to use legal names for official purposes.

Why the Change Is Necessary

There are several reasons why the new policy is needed. The main reasons for introducing a legal names policy include the following:

- Legal names are required for both identification purposes for the new Certification Exam and for granting the C-IAYT credential.
- To provide transparency for the public when enlisting the services of an IAYT-certified yoga therapist and other IAYT-designated professionals.
- To be able to identify an IAYT-certified yoga therapist in the rare instance that a client or student files a complaint against a C-IAYT.

Moving forward, IAYT will require legal names for official purposes through this new policy on the use of legal and preferred names. This policy still permits self-expression with one’s preferred name.

IAYT requires that when you create a member account, you must provide your legal name. If your legal name changes at any time, you must update it using the Name Change Form.

IAYT needs this information to ascertain your eligibility for membership, and/or registration for C-IAYT certification and other designations. Failure to comply may result in suspension of your membership and revocation of your credential/designation.

IAYT has long recognized preferred/chosen names and will continue to create space for these forms of self-expression in non-legal contexts. You can still choose to be found on our directory search using your preferred full name (e.g., legal, chosen, spiritual name, nickname, or other names used for self-expression of your identity).