
MEDIA RELEASE

Views on women taking husband’s name aren’t black and white

70% of Americans think it’s beneficial for women to take her husband’s last name when they marry, while 29% say it's better for women to keep their own names, and half say the government should mandate women to change their names, according to a new study by researchers from Indiana University and the University of Utah.

But let’s not get carried away. It’s dangerous to buy these headlines hook, line, and sinker because there are almost always interrelated factors to understand.

As a family naming expert with a degree in psychology, Kelly Utt-Grubb spent nearly two years researching trends and attitudes about nontraditional last names. *The Name Survey* included data from 1000 respondents and-- although not intended to be academic-- was professionally reviewed by the Assistant Director for Survey Research and Development at the University of North Carolina.

Consider the following information gleaned from Utt-Grubb’s study:

- Attitudes about nontraditional last names are overwhelmingly positive. 3 out of 4 people think using something besides just a man’s last name is a good idea.
- Creative solutions are being utilized: hyphenation, woman’s maiden for the whole family, combining two family names to create a new one, alternating children’s last names, or a completely new last name of special significance.
- Heterosexual men are becoming open to the idea of modifying their last names and many already have.

Limited academic research on the topic of married names exists, but it points to increasing use of and positive perceptions of nontraditional last names, NOT to scary scenarios like government mandated married names.

Kelly Utt-Grubb’s ground breaking work has been featured in major media including the Los Angeles Times, PINK Magazine, iParenting and Divorce 360, as well as on numerous radio shows across North America.

To learn more or book an interview, call 919.272.2093 or e-mail kelly@familynaming.com. Visit <http://www.FamilyNaming.com/press> to download a full media release with mini literature review.

KELLY UTT-GRUBB IS AVAILABLE FOR LAST MINUTE INTERVIEWS.
