

Google+ Page and Profile Names

Google+ makes connecting with people on the web more like connecting with people in the real world. Because of this, it's important to use your common name so that the people you want to connect with can find you. Your common name is the name your friends, family or coworkers usually call you. For example, if your legal name is Charles Jones Jr. but you normally use Chuck Jones or Junior Jones, any of these would be acceptable.

If you are unable to complete the Google+ sign-up flow, or if your profile is or could be suspended for a name-related issue, review our guidelines below. If your profile name was already saved, and we find your name doesn't adhere to our Names Policy, you will have a four day grace period to change your name or appeal our finding before we take further action.

Use your common first and last name.

By using your common name, you'll be able to connect with people you know and help them find you. Indications of membership in professional, educational, societal or religious entities, such as "Dr.", "Rev." or "Professor" are not allowed in the first or last name fields.

Violation examples: Doctor Stan Livingston, Bill Smithwick DDS, Rev. Jim Copley, S. P.

Most people use their legal name, or some variant of it, in the real world. We recognize that this isn't always the case and allow for other common names in Google+. If we challenge the name you intend to use, you will be asked to submit proof that this is an established identity with a meaningful following. You can do so by providing links to other social networking sites, news articles, or official documents in which you are referred to by this name. Note that this name and your profile must represent you, and not an avatar or other secondary online identity. Profane or offensive names are not allowed.

Avoid unusual or unnecessary characters in your name.

When you create your profile, our system will check the name you submitted for unusual characters. For example, numbers, symbols, and obscure punctuation are not supported.

Violation examples: John246 , ★★Shelley★★, J@SON W@T\$ON, 'Rachel Smith/

Your profile and name must represent you as an individual.

Personal profiles on Google+ are meant to represent you, not someone or something else with which you are associated. Therefore, your name may not represent a family, business, avatar, gaming handle, or other group of people.

Violation examples: Jones Family, Jeremy & Mel Mason, Vegas the Dog, Brooklyn Bagels, Northern California Conservation Society

If you'd like to create a page for your brand, business, or other entity, you can do so using [Google+ Pages](#). Pages require a personal profile to act as the administrator of the page, though the administrator may remain anonymous to those interacting with the Google+ page.

Don't pretend to be someone else.

Impersonation is a serious issue. Pretending to be someone else could cause your profile to be deleted. If someone is pretending to be you, go to their profile and click **Report this profile**.

Name Changes

Name Changes are limited to 3 changes every 2 years.

Nicknames

Your nickname should represent you as an individual, and should not be used to represent a business or profession. Don't use the nickname field for statements or status updates. Your nickname should not be offensive, primarily consists of symbols, or be used to imitate celebrities or historical figures.

 [to add a nickname to your Google profile...](#)

1. [Sign in to your Google profile url\(http://www.gstatic.com/support/content/20130327-232705-7015/css/v1/data:image/png\)](http://www.gstatic.com/support/content/20130327-232705-7015/css/v1/data:image/png) . 
2. Click **Edit profile**.
3. Click on your name.
4. Click **More Options**.

5. Add your nickname and choose the way you'd like it to be displayed on your profile from the drop down menu.
6. Click **Save**, and then click **Done editing**.

Names Appeals

If you've followed these guidelines but your name still isn't being accepted by our system, please follow the on-screen instructions to submit your name for review. You can provide us with several different types of information to help confirm your established identity. These could include:

- Scanned official documentation, such as a driver's license
- Proof of an established identity online with a significant following
- References to an established identity offline in print media, news articles, etc.

We'll review the appeal and typically get back to you within a few days. We may also ask for further information, such as proof that you control a website you reference.

Google+ Profile Suspension and Other Google Services

If your profile is suspended, you will not be able to make full use of Google services that require an active profile such as Google+, Reader and Picasa. This will not prevent you from using other Google services, like Gmail. Your profile can be restored by editing your name and submitting an appeal that will be reviewed by our team, as directed by on-screen instructions.

We understand that your identity on Google+ is important to you, and our Name Policy may not be for everyone at this time. We'd hate to see you go, but if you choose to leave, [make a copy](#) of your Google+ data first. Then click [here](#) to leave Google+.

Oct 16, 2012