

## Becoming "Sunshine"

It was raining hard as I ran from my car with pretty gold shoes in hand into the assisted living facility to play the grand piano and sing a bit in the lobby where thirty some people lounged in comfortable chairs. I slipped my shoes back on and announced, "It's really gray outside; so I'm bringing some sunshine with music. Let's start with "You Are My Sunshine." I moved the piano bench into position and sat down; just before I played the introduction, I added "Oh, and by the way, my name is Sunshine!" The name felt right, so on that day in April, 2001, I became Sunshine.

My late husband, Lloyd Lutey, and I moved to Leisure World November of 1995 where I began to perform on stage with various organizations. Lloyd applauded each and every performance and in 1996 said to me, "Honey, you should have a stage name!" I liked the idea but never acted on it until six years later on that special day in April.

I considered a legal change from Terri Lynn Lutey to Sunshine Lutey. But due to the complicated process and cost decided against it. But I continued to use the name Sunshine everywhere I went and soon became known as Sunshine to family and many friends.

In 2005, due to grave illness, I lost Lloyd who was my most ardent fan and loving companion. But the following year, fortune smiled on me and I found David Hartman, a loving man who not only supported and applauded my musical accomplishments but who added his talents with mine as we embarked on a beautiful musical and love-filled journey. Between 2008 and 2016 we orchestrated and performed in 18 major musical productions and numerous small shows. David had many other skills such as table tennis, billiards, golf and poker. He shared some of his knowledge with me and because of his encouragement I experienced the fun of Senior Games competition with him. So in between our musical adventures, we enjoyed many other adventures.

We married in 2008 and since I had to use my legal name, he married Terri Lynn Lutey. We celebrated our eighth wedding anniversary in 2016 and had a wonderful vacation in Cancun, Mexico. Since my passport and driver's license all had my legal name, everyone referred to me as Terri, not Sunshine. I really liked being Sunshine, so I decided that when we returned home, I would make the my chosen name legal.

Back home, I started the process -- a painfully long and costly one. I started by making a mistake. I paid a company called "LegalZoom" a fee which I thought covered much more than it did. They provided papers which I could have obtained for free from the Superior Court Self-Help Service Center.

I carefully completed all the forms and on September 20, 2016 traveled to the Superior Court of California, County of Orange in Santa Ana to file the completed papers and pay a high court fee for this process. I received an appointment for 8:30 a.m. on December 6, 2016 for approval of the change, but had to get the planned name change published 4 times in a weekly newspaper publication. I reviewed the fee structure for all the local newspapers and found the best value.

After 45 minutes of heavy traffic on Tuesday, December 6, I arrived at the proper window at the Superior court building promptly at 8:30 a.m. No one was at the window until 8:45 which is when I discovered that 20 other people also had an appointment for 8:30 a.m. By 10 a.m. I had the official document in hand with 4 official copies (for a fee) -- I was legally Sunshine!

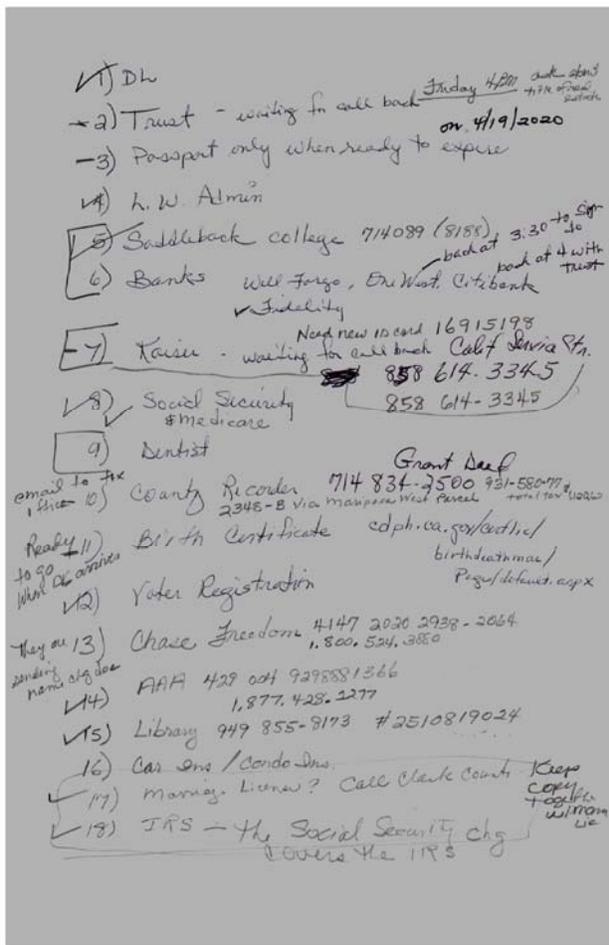
I immediately went to the Department of Motor Vehicles which was my second mistake. I waited for an hour before being called to a service window. At the service window the clerk said, "I'm sorry, but you have to have your name change recorded by Social Security before I can do anything." "You mean," I asked, "I've waited here for an hour for nothing?" The clerk patiently and kindly responded, "When you return, if you see me, I'll take care of you."

My third mistake was when I drove to the Social Security office, or at least where the department was located when I filed for Social Security eleven years prior. I told the uniformed guard that I needed to go to the Social Security office to which she responded "This is the IRS building!" and pointed to a sign with the Social Security address. Even with my phone's GPS the location was hard to find but after driving in circles for a bit, I found it. I also found at least 75 people waiting for service. I took a number and waited for another couple hours.

Finally, with a letter from the Social Security department, I headed back to the Department of Motor Vehicles. The clerk who took care of me was nowhere to be seen so I got in line to get a number. With number in hand, I sat near the window where the clerk had been previously. Suddenly, there she was -- I ran up -- "I have my letter my Social Security; can you take

care of me?" She responded, "I'm sorry; I just punched out and I can't take care of you. You better take a number." So I simply waited another hour for my number to be called.

Normally, when waiting, I use my cell phone to get some things accomplished but by this time, my phone was dead. Fortunately, I had paper and pencil and made a list of all the things that I had to do to complete the name change process. I listed eighteen things, including an update to the family trust -- and that one will have a cost. Another thing I listed was my passport change, but since it costs to have a new passport created, I'll wait to make for this change until 2020 when it expires. Later on I created a typed list I could actually read.



Name Change Tasks

Done	Task	Status Notes
✓	Social Security & Medicare	Completed: new SS Card Rcd
✓	DMV	Completed --new DL rcd
✓	Driver's License, Voter Registration, Vehicle Registration, Title for Honda	Waiting for receipt of title
✓	Saddleback College	Complete
✓	Banks:	Complete
✓	Citibank	
✓	Fidelity	
✓	One West	
✓	Wells Fargo	
✓	Laguna Woods Administration -- Membership	Complete
✓	Kaiser - Medical Dentist	Info faxed on 12/7 waiting for new card
	Property:	
	2348-B Via Mariposa and Tax on same Parcel # 931-580-77 Tax Area 32-010	Will be handled by JF Roberts Law
	3232-D San Amadeo, Mortgage and Tax on same Parcel # 932-440-40 Tax Area 32-010	David will check to see if needed
	Birth Certificate from Wisconsin	Mailed req with \$30 12/15
✓	Credit Card Chase Freedom Wells Fargo Bank Of America American Express	Completed form; mailed 12/14 Complete - waiting for card Send electronically
✓	AAA	Complete
✓	Library	Complete
✓	Marriage License from Nevada	Called Nevada --said not needed
✓	IRS	Research IRS - SS chg covered
	Home Insurance Allstate Jensen (Earthquake)	David is to contact
	Car Insurance - Liberty Mutual	David is to contact
	Trust	Working with JF Roberts Law
	Passport	Wait till expiration 2020
	Credit Bureau Equifax TransUnion Experian	

Within a week many of the 18 steps were complete or at least addressed for the future. Many of them required a couple of weeks for completion of the official documents.

As I write this true story, I wonder "How many steps did I forget?" But my mission is accomplished; I am now legal -- My name is Sunshine Lutey.