http://decisions.courts.state.ny.us/fcas/fcas_docs/2001oct/0300009501995100sciv.pdf-**0300009501995100sciv.pdf**

Schwartz vs. Ingraham-New York Supreme Court – 8/4/95- "Pursuant to article 6 of the Civil Rights law. Court granted 17 & 15 year old's mother petition for their name change since THEY WANTED IT.

See also: Matter Cohan vs. Cunningham: "neither parent has a superior right to determine their surname, and the pertinent inquiry is always whether the best interests of the children will be served by the proposed change (Matter of Cohan v Cunningham, 104 AD2d 716). It is also well recognized that the preferences of the children themselves are to be considered in determining their best interests where, as here, the children are older than 14 years of age (see, e.g., Feldman v. Feldman, 58 AD2d 882, 883). Specifically in connection with change of name cases, the courts have recognized that a child may make the change when he or she has reached a "mature age", and in two cases involving children over the age of 16 years, the child's preference was been held to be decisive (see, Matter of "Shipley", 26 Misc 2d 204, 210**). Further, the court in the "Shipley" case recited that the children involved there had been "of sufficient age [11, 13, 15 and 18 years old) and intelligence to make the requersted change without judicial proceedings" (id., at 212). Thus, for older children there is a recognized right to elect to change their name and their choice is to be respected unless the child is not mature enough to make the choice or not aware of the implications of such a a change (see, Matter of Robinson, 74 Misc 2d 63, 66).**