



# Expansion of name choice: combined surname

Having a surname is important; it says something about who you are and who you belong to.

**From January 1, 2024**, the options for choosing a surname are expanded. From now on, parents will also have the option to choose a combination of both their surnames as the surname for their child.



## Who can opt for a combined surname?



### Children born from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2024

The choice for a combined surname becomes possible for children born from January 1, 2024. During pregnancy, when declaring the birth or when acknowledging the child, both parents can notify the Census office of their preference for a combined surname. The choice is one-off and also applies to subsequent children. Choosing a combined surname does not mean that the authority changes.

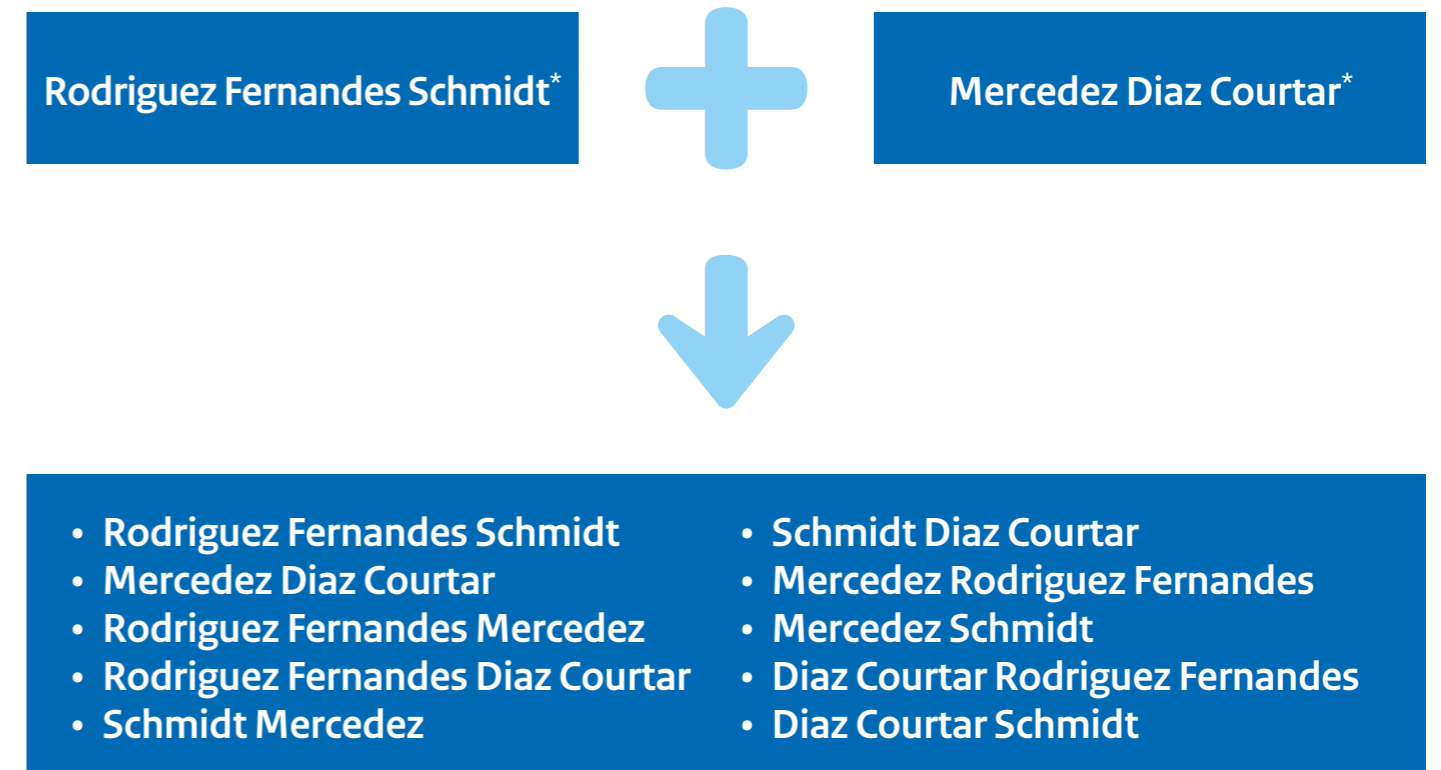
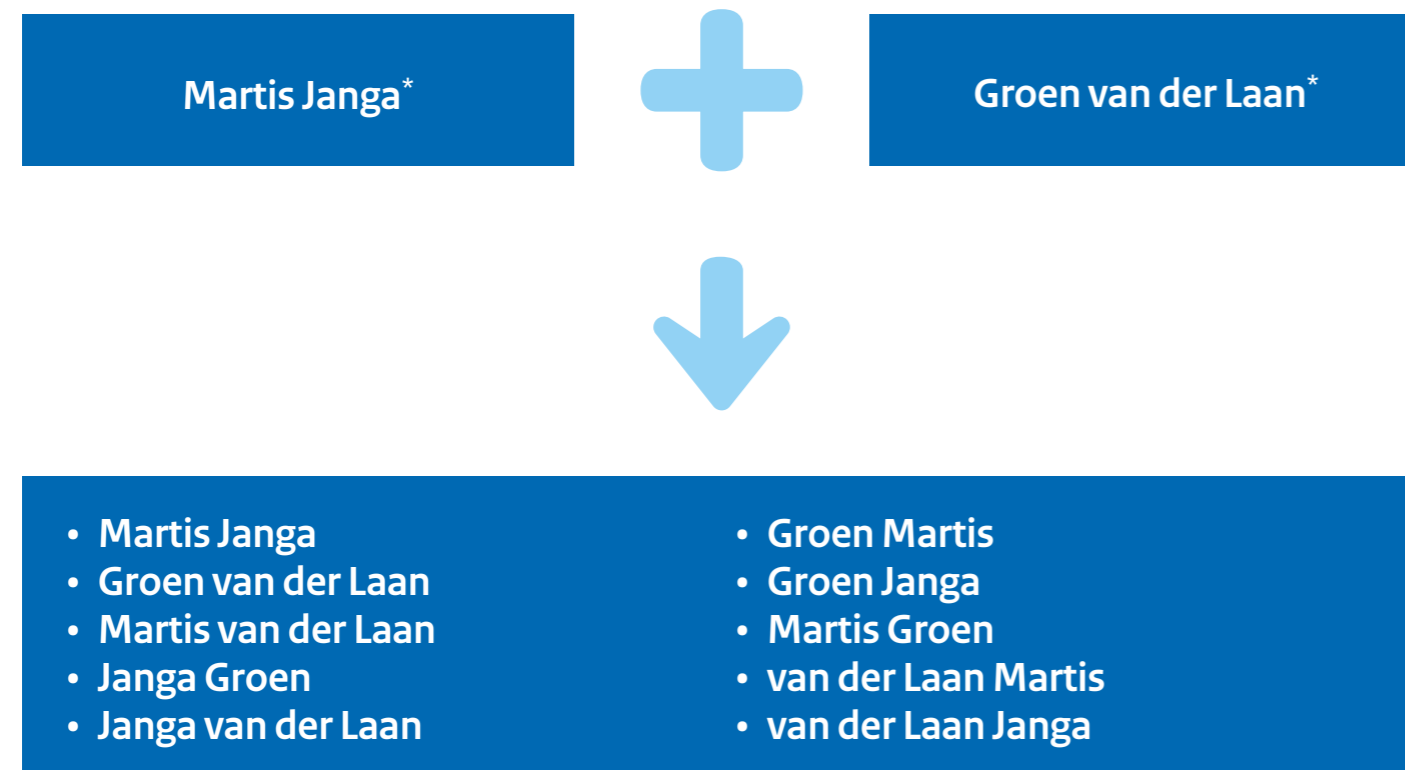
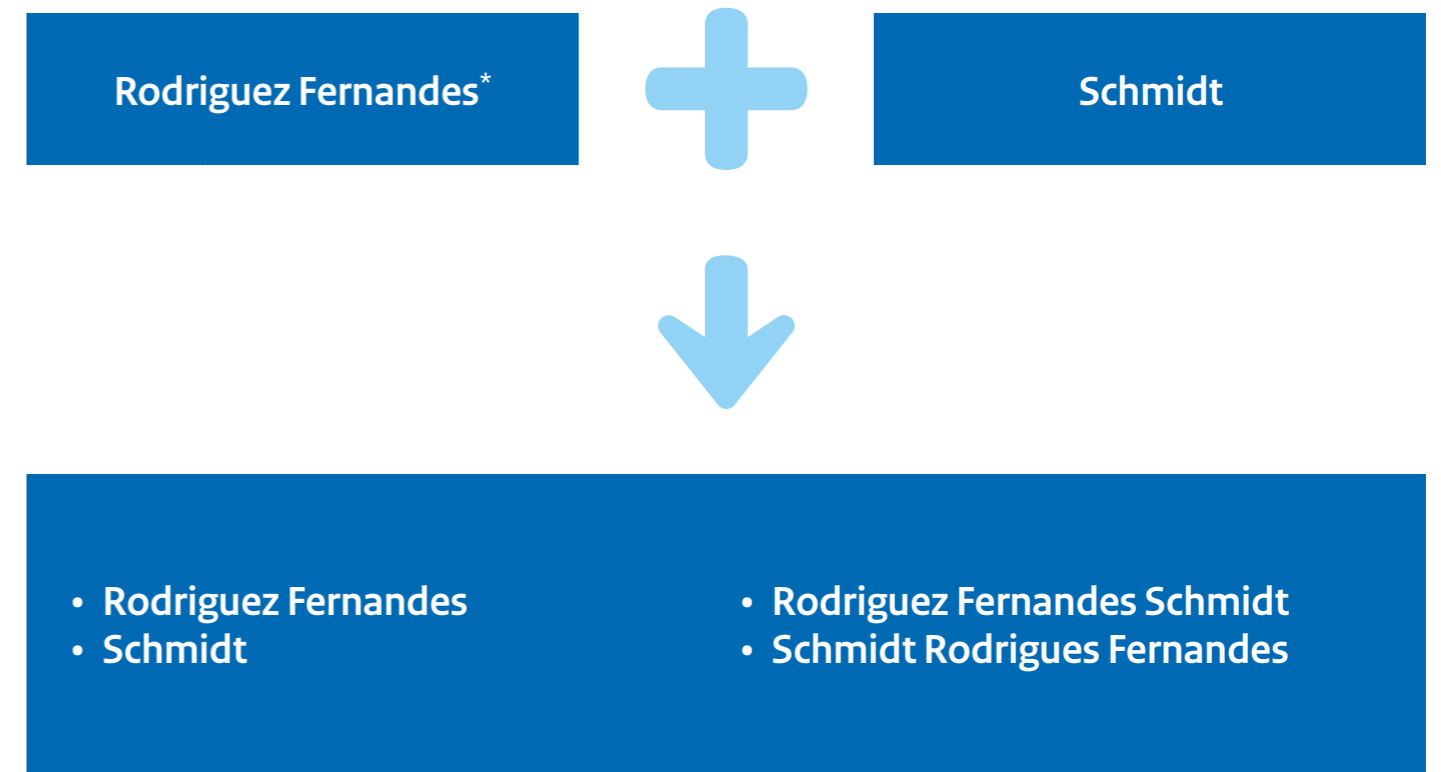
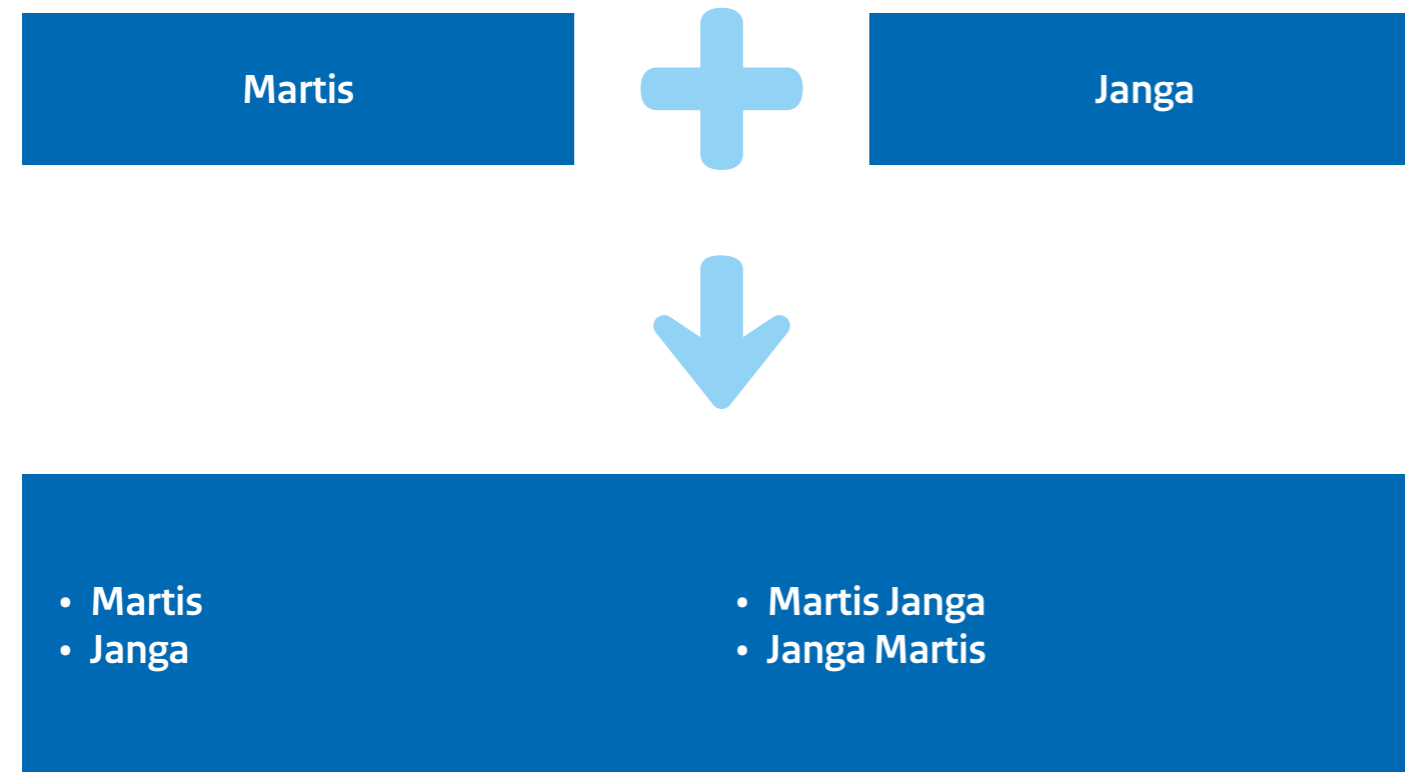


### Children born after the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2016; Transitional arrangement

Parents whose children were born after the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, 2016 can have their surname changed into a combined surname. The adjustment can only be made for all children together.

# What combinations are possible?

We give a number of examples of the possibilities with a combined surname.

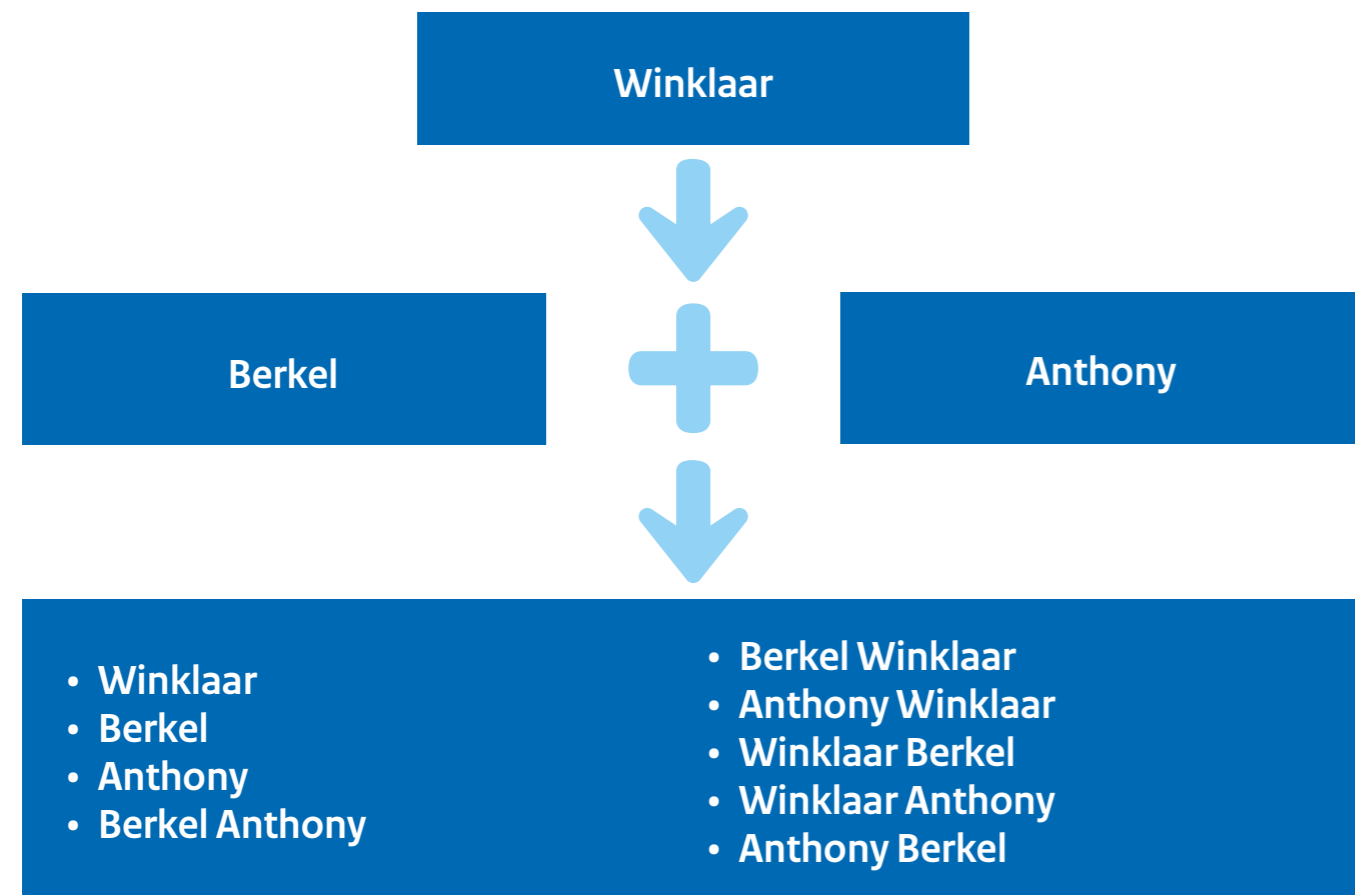


\* Most people have a single surname, but it also happens that someone already has a double surname. In that case, these names are seen as 1 surname

## In case of adoption other combinations are also possible

If the (adoptive) parents have chosen the surname of one of them or a combination of them for their first child, a subsequent adopted child can also be given that name. They can additionally choose the original name of the adopted child. Finally, they can combine (part of) the adopted child's original surname with the previously chosen surname of either of them. Different adopted children in the family can thus have the same surname, or different surnames.

### Examples of name choices in adoption.



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## What is the maximum number of names that can be notified?

There is a maximum of two name elements to this scheme. If people with a combined surname have children of their own, they can also choose a maximum of two name elements in total for these children. Elements of the name will then be dropped to arrive at the combined surname.

