

Interviewer: Jessie Yancey-Siegel (Child with hyphenated name, parents felt strong connection to their names and wanted them passed down.)

Interviewer: Sophia Carmen

*What is your last name and the story behind it?* My last name is Yancey-Siegel, Yancey is my mom's last name and comes from Welsh heritage and Siegel is my dad's last name and comes from Polish heritage. See story details below :) *What did your parents do upon marrying?* My parents were very liberal when it came to several things in their marriage. First of all, they never "officially" got married with a marriage license but they do have a common-law marriage now. They were inspired by some ideological book, I can find out the exact name and send it later tonight. In terms of my name, my dad says my brother and I got a hyphenated last name because neither my mom nor him could "win," he told me jokingly. More seriously, my dad comes from a Jewish family and my mom comes from a southern family, and both have very strong traditions of pride and passing names down. Also, my dad's brother does not plan to have kids so he wanted to ensure that his name was passed down. My mom's two sisters are more traditional and both took their husband's names and so did their kids, so my mom wanted to make sure Yancey was passed down.

*If you know, what was your parent's motivation in choosing your name, what did they hope for, and has it worked? Have there been any unforeseen consequences?* I think they hoped that both the names could be further passed down and that our family history wouldn't be lost. My mom is a pretty strong woman and my parents have a very equal power dynamic in their marriage so it isn't surprising that they chose to hyphenate my name. The order was simply chosen because Yancey-Siegel sounded better than Siegel-Yancey. I think it's worked, although it sometimes makes things difficult for my brother and I when filling out forms and spelling our name over the phone, etc. Growing up in the south, it wasn't as common. But when I moved to northern California it was more common.

*What does your name mean to you, how important is it? Would you ever consider changing it, and if so under what circumstances?* I think it's important but it doesn't entirely define me so I would have been happy either way. I am happy to represent both sides of my family. I still haven't decided on whether I would change it if I got married. I wouldn't give my kids three hyphenated last names though of course. Marrying someone would be the only reason why I may at all consider changing it. I feel like my last name carries a lot of history. I do have a brother though, so there is a higher likelihood of the name being passed down than if I had a sister, as unfortunate as that sounds. He and I are pretty liberal though; I'm just thinking that he is less likely to change his last name when getting married than I am. I think the only reason I would consider changing it when I got married was out of convenience's sake. Having one last name would make life a bit easier, especially since I have a first name, middle name, and nickname as well.

*Looking into the future, what do you think the generation of children with hyphenated names should do as they marry and have children?* Shit. I don't know, it's a difficult question that I've thought a bit about. If more couples choose to give their kids hyphenated name, the following generations will have a difficult time. Maybe couples

can do a coin toss or something to see what last name or hyphenated last name their kids get, but the real answer is that I have no idea. Maybe someone could develop a cool database to map and document family lineage so that even if someone changes their name, the history won't be lost.

*How meaningfully does women keeping her father's father's etc. name and giving children hyphenated names speak to feminist goals of not being erased?* I think it's a forward-thinking idea, but it doesn't really work long-term. I think there needs to be a whole other tradition created that doesn't cause confusion but doesn't give the man more of a priority in passing on a name.[Explain Consent]