

Interviewee: Kelley Douglass (Kelley Douglass kept her last name when she married her 2<sup>nd</sup> husband, though she had changed her name in her first marriage. She kept her name partially out of annoyance at the process of changing it multiple times, and also because she felt a loyalty to her father, who had been adopted, and who thus had a short personal history with the name.)

Interviewer: Sawyer Schweitzer

[consent script and agreement] *Could you please tell me your last name story, meaning why you didn't take Dad's last name when you got married to him?* Ok, well my marriage to my second husband, David Schweitzer, I kept my name because when I was married the first time it was very important to my husband to have his last name. My current husband, David, it wasn't that important. So when I asked him if I could keep Douglass, he said absolutely, it wouldn't bother him either way. So I wanted to keep it.

*So during your first marriage you did change your last name?* I did, to my husband's name, because he was insistent upon it. So I agreed but I found it, you know, I found it even awkward and difficult when we were separating and divorced to undo that. And, so I just knew that I would never do that again. I would keep my first name, so to speak, my family name.

*Was it a difficult process to have your name changed back to Douglass?* You know, it was so easy with a marriage certificate to just wipe out your former identity, your former name. It was nothing. But when I went through the divorce I had to change everything, social security, and it just seemed much more cumbersome to go back and change it back. And I feel like if you pull up reports on me, it's confusing, because there are several names, and I just think in hindsight I probably would not have changed my name the first time.

*So when you kept your name the second time, was it mostly a result of how difficult the process of changing it back was the first time? And you just didn't want to get involved in that again? Or did you have any role models, or other reasons for wanting to keep your own name?* Well, I think part of it was that the stress, it wasn't debilitating, but it was annoying to go through that change, or to imagine going through the change again. From changing it, changing it back, and changing it again, I thought that would be annoying. And as I said, David didn't mind at all if I kept my name, in fact his comment was he likes my name, and he could understand. He probably thought about changing his name to my name. It's easier to spell and pronounce. It seems sort of trivial but I'm in my job, and people have to, you know, I want people to remember me. I'm in the same career that I was in marriage the first time, and it's important in my work that people remember me, and Douglass is easy for people to remember, and Kelley Douglass I've learned over the years is easier. Schweitzer is difficult to say and spell for some people, so you know on a professional level it was easier for me. And on a personal level, my father was an orphan, and I felt like I should keep it because his name had such a short history for him, you know it's just my father, and the four of us, my brothers, and my brothers just naturally, customarily kept the names, so I just thought about it more than just convenience or professionally. I think it was my way of keeping a little piece of my father's short lineage.

*When you had August and I, did you ever talk about hyphenating Douglass and Schweitzer, or combining them in some way, so that I wouldn't just have Dad's name and I would have both of your names?* Well I know we talked about it but you know 20 years ago, we talked about how superficially we loved your name Sawyer and thought how nice it would sound with my last

name, but we just thought for traditional, more traditional, or customary way it would be easier for you at school. And things like that. That was really it. It became more about keeping it less confusing for you at school, if you had your father's name. Since we had you, and I'm not sure what laws have changed, you could have taken either of our name at birth and it wouldn't have been that big a deal as it was 20 years ago. We probably would have talked about it more if it was just more commonplace, I think your father would have been fine with that. But then they also have to deal with the fact that you are a girl, I don't know how he would feel if we had sons, I really don't know.

*Going back to you, I know that there has been a lot of times, especially with friends of August and myself, where they will call you Mrs. Schweitzer, even though your name is Mrs. Douglass, so I was wondering--does that bother you ever? Do you ever feel like a part of you is being erased in a way, when people fail to use your real name and just assume that you took the name of your husband? You know, I do find myself correcting people and you know, rather than, more often than just letting it go. When you know, children say Mrs. Schweitzer, when they're young, but when adults do it I always correct them. So I know that it's important, it's not a primary problem or issue but I do like to have it known that my name is different, and I haven't really thought that through. It is my identity, you're right, I'm not Kelley Schweitzer.*

*I guess, looking back on your choice to keep your own name and give us Dad's name, are you happy? Would you make the same choice again or would you do anything differently? Well I think I might have given you both names, middle names, I guess Douglass Schweitzer. But because we had some complications that we created because of your first names, it made it more difficult to think about it. We both loved unusual first names for our daughters, and we wanted you both to use the middle name but give you a more traditional, common first name in case you were unhappy with that when you got older. So I think that kind of made the last name less of an issue. I would have probably gone either way had I really thought about it. I think you tend to do things at that point, when you have babies, when you have first-names, it becomes for some reason more about your parents, it became important that we called you Elaine even though we knew, for my mother, I think the last name for David's parents is interesting, though I can only imagine if you have children, you would choose whatever you want. I wouldn't feel like the child had to have my name, or your dad's name. Whatever you wanted to do, that wouldn't bother me. [end of interview, thank you's]*