CDOL Tip of the Week. May 16, 2013, Changes are Coming to Name Editing with Upcoming Release

A new CDOL release in the next few weeks brings with it some changes to users. One of the changes is for those who have edit rights, specifically those who have previously been editing names of people who are listed in positions within CDOL.

The new release will now be using CMIS (Church Membership Information System) as the name authority for most assignments. That significantly changes the functionality that users have been used to, where they have been able to edit the displayed name within CDOL. After the release, only leaders' ecclesiastical names will be editable within CDOL, and the ecclesiastical name, whether for an active assignment or a prior assignment, will take precedence. That means If a leader currently has, or ever previously had, an assignment where the ecclesiastical name was populated (such as in a bishopric, stake presidency, etc.) the ecclesiastical name used for that assignment will always be used for any other subsequent assignment, whether ecclesiastical or not.

Important: The ecclesiastical name can still be modified in CDOL with **special rights**, but it will be stored in CMIS and **the changes will be displayed in all assignments for that individual, whether current or historical.** If an ecclesiastical name for an individual exists, users should ordinarily never adjust it, even if they have the rights to do so, as it will impact the displayed name across all listed assignments for that individual.

If there is no ecclesiastical name recorded for an individual, the preferred name from CMIS will be used in all assignments. To change a preferred name, the individual would need to work through the local unit clerk to have the name changed in MLS (which updates CMIS) or, in non-MLS units, have the name changed through standard submission process.

If there is neither an ecclesiastical nor preferred name recorded for an individual, the CMIS full name will be used for that individual in any assignment listed in CDOL. To add a preferred name, so the full name is not used by default, again the individual would need to work through the local unit clerk.

While this change is a little less flexible where names are displayed in CDOL, it removes the step of having to check or edit an individual's name from the process of adding an assignment and now provides a standardization of names across multiple applications as well as multiple assignments within CDOL, which will make searching for individuals with either current or historical assignments easier and more consistent.