

Why do I need a birth certificate?

A birth certificate is one of the most important legal documents used to establish identity. It shows who you are, when you were born, and where you were born. A birth certificate is required for many things during a person's life, such as:

- enrolling a child in school
- participating in youth sports
- getting a Social Security card
- obtaining a driver's license
- applying for a passport

You will need certified copies that are printed on special paper that cannot be easily duplicated.

How do I order a birth certificate?

Certified copies of the certificate of birth may be purchased from county or state vital records offices, depending on how long ago the person was born. If the birth occurred less than six months ago, you may order the record from the county where the birth occurred. If the birth occurred more than six months ago,

you must order from the state vital records office.

You can order the birth certificate by telephone, the Internet, mail, or in person. The basic fee is \$20 for the certificate. There are additional fees, depending on how you order. See www.healthoregon.org/chs for ordering and fee information.

Telephone orders: 1-888-896-4988

Internet: www.vitalchek.com

Mail orders:

Oregon Vital Records

P.O. Box 14050

Portland, Oregon 97293-0050

Mail-order forms are available at

www.healthoregon.org/chs

In person:

Oregon Vital Records

800 NE Oregon St., Suite 205

Portland, Oregon 97232-2162

If you were born in another state, contact that state to find out how to order certificates. You can use

www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm or call us for contact information.

How are the fees used?

Fees for vital records support all of the services provided by state and county vital records offices. These services include:

Filing and storing certificates...

Each vital event – birth, marriage, divorce, and death – that occurs in Oregon is registered and filed with the state vital records office. Birth certificates have been filed with the state vital records office since 1903. We file approximately 45,000 birth certificates each year.

Our office is responsible for ensuring that certificates have complete information, and are numbered and indexed so each can be easily found. The certificates are stored securely for at least 100 years. Any changes that are made to the records at any time must be documented and tracked.

Currently, the state vital records office is responsible for maintaining over 6 million vital records.

Screening and processing orders for certificates...

Oregon Vital Records screens and processes more than 170,000 orders each year. All orders are screened to make sure that persons ordering the records are eligible to receive them. Birth certificates are confidential and access is limited for 100 years to specific persons, such as immediate family or legal representatives.

Screening is used to keep information confidential, and to prevent fraud and identity theft. After screening the request, the certificate is located in storage, and a certified copy is made and mailed.

Analyzing data from vital records...

Some of the most important information about the health of Oregonians comes from birth certificates. For example, information about low birth weight babies and

access to prenatal care is gathered from birth certificates.

Information from each birth certificate is compiled into a centralized database. We can then analyze the combined data and publish the findings without identifying individual names. This information is then used when deciding where to focus resources to improve the health of Oregon's children and mothers.

Please visit our web site at www.healthoregon.org/chs for more information about the services provided by Oregon Vital Records.

The Certificate of Birth



Oregon Vital Records
Center for Health Statistics
800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 205
Portland, Oregon 97232