



Six Months!, by Alvin Smith, <https://flic.kr/p/awknkn>

## News from the Center for Health Statistics Concerning the Oregon Birth Certificate

November 2015

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### Did you know your work collecting birth data is published and used locally and nationally?

You may be surprised to learn how much the work you do collecting and entering birth information in OVERS (Oregon Vital Events Registration System) affects local and national public health.

The data collected on the record of birth are utilized by statisticians here in the Center for Health Statistics (CHS) to create a variety of reports and tables. These reports and tables are then utilized by local and national partners, such as PRAMS (Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System) and NCHS (National Center for Health Statistics) to name a few. These reports provide a wealth of information - some of which may even directly impact your facility. In addition, researchers working at the Public Health Division, universities and medical schools, and local health departments rely on birth certificate data to write grants, prepare and evaluate programs, and inform ongoing research to improve the health of Oregon’s mothers and babies. This is why your work in gathering accurate and complete birth certificate information is so important.

### *Interested in seeing these reports for yourself?*

The Center for Health Statistics has published annual reports on birth data since 1905. Initially this data contained simple counts of births; yet more current reports can be found online with over 40 tables containing demographic and medical outcome information for residents of Oregon.

This link will take you to our latest report on 2014 birth data: (<https://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/>)

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Birth data is published (Continued from page 1)

[VitalStatistics/annualreports/Volume1/Pages/index.aspx](https://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/VitalStatistics/Pages/index.aspx))

You can also find many other tables on this same site, organized by county and zip code, by selecting the “[Birth Data](#)” tab – located in the left hand menu.

Brand new to our web site are three maps showing key birth-related state health indicators. In these maps you can view information about prenatal care, low birth weight, and teen pregnancy down to a specific census block or zip code anywhere in the state. We’ve combined five years of

data to ensure patient confidentiality and to provide more robust measures. You can take a look at the maps by following this link and even find your neighborhood. <https://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/VitalStatistics/Pages/data-maps.aspx>.

We hope that communities and local agencies will find these maps useful for program planning. If you have questions about the maps, or the birth data in these reports, you can contact either Krista Markwardt, Research Analyst, at [krista.a.markwardt@state.or.us](mailto:krista.a.markwardt@state.or.us) or 971-673-1179 or Craig New, Research Analyst, at [craig.c.new@state.or.us](mailto:craig.c.new@state.or.us) or 971-673-0476. ❖

## Multiple Corrections? One Amendment!

***Did you know that you can make multiple corrections for a record and submit only one amendment?***

To find out how to include multiple corrections in one amendment, please see instructions on the Center for Health Statistics (CHS) [OVERS FAQ](#) web page, or follow this direct link:

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/RegisterVitalRecords/overs/Documents/electronic-amendments.pdf>

The instructions include screen prints to demonstrate how to include multiple items in one amendment request.

Submission of a single amendment provides

convenience to birth clerks as well as helping CHS staff process these amendments faster. This is because multiple amendments require extra review and create extensive footnotes on the certified copies of the record of birth. These extensive footnotes can cause questions when the certified birth certificate is used for legal purposes such as getting a passport and driver’s license. Often these amendments are being done for the parents who need birth certificates. The longer it takes to process them the longer it takes to produce certified copies.

If you have additional questions about submitting amendments, please contact Amanda Vega at [Amanda.l.vega@state.or.us](mailto:Amanda.l.vega@state.or.us) or at 971-673-1169. ❖

Page to Amend

Item In Error	Item as it Appears	Item as it Should be
Child - Date of Child's Birth	FEB-16-2015	FEB-17-2015
Mother Address - Street Name - Mailing	PO Box 951	PO Box 95333
Marital Status - Mother married at birth, conception or between?	Yes	No
Marital Status - Acknowledgement of Paternity signed?	Not Applicable	Yes

**Child**

## What to do when the mother is married and does not want to list the father on the birth certificate

It can be confusing when a mother reports her marital status as “married” but does not list her husband as the father of the child on the birth certificate. This happens for a number of reasons. For example: the mother is a surrogate and her husband is not the biological father of the child; the mother is not currently living with her husband and going through a divorce; or in some cases, the mother just does not want to list her husband as the father of the child.

Regardless of the reason, the correct procedure for reporting this through OVERS is to leave the father’s information blank. **Do not list Unknown** for his name or place of birth and do not put in 9s to represent his birthdate. What happens if you do put in unknown and 9s? The certified copy of the child’s birth certificate prints out the information you have entered in OVERS, including the name Unknown for the father.

### New hours: Vital Records Counter

The new hours at the Center for Health Statistics public counters for ordering certified copies of vital records and for amending records are:

**9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.**

Customers need to be at the counter and

### Who is responsible for reporting the birth?

Believe it or not, under certain circumstances, this seemingly straightforward question can cause confusion; leading to delays in submission of the record of birth to the Center for Health Statistics.

For the majority of births, the responsibility is clear: the birth has occurred within a facility, (hospital or freestanding licensed

birthing center), and thus it is the responsibility of that facility to submit the record of birth. However, there are those instances where it is not so clear.

When those fields are left blank, OVERS’ edit rules are triggered questioning the validity of what you have entered. We have ensured that these edit rules can be overridden by you to allow the record to be submitted with these fields blank.

FAQS on how to override edits: <https://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/RegisterVitalRecords/overs/Documents/override-tutorial.pdf>

FAQS on how to enter a comment: <http://1.usa.gov/1RowVHp>

If you have any questions or concerns contact Cynthia Roeser at [Cynthia.R.Roeser@state.or.us](mailto:Cynthia.R.Roeser@state.or.us) or by phone at 971-673-0478. ❖

complete submission of their order, through our kiosks, by 3:30 p.m. to obtain birth certificates that same day. Customers can find complete order information on the web at: [www.healthoregon.org/chs](http://www.healthoregon.org/chs) ❖



Untitled, by danielhedrick,  
<https://flic.kr/p/nojLE>

birthing center), and thus it is the responsibility of that facility to submit the record of birth. However, there are those instances where it is not so clear.

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Who is responsible for reporting the birth (Continued from page 3)

Examples of situations when legal responsibility to report can be unclear:

- Baby is born in a moving vehicle (ambulance or otherwise) and taken to hospital.
- Baby is born outside of a facility (hospital or freestanding licensed birthing center), with or without a licensed birth attendant present, and then examined at hospital within 24 hours.
- Baby is born in one facility (hospital or freestanding licensed birthing center) and subsequently transferred to different facility (hospital or freestanding licensed birthing center).
- Baby is born outside a facility (such as a private home) and is brought into a facility (within 3 hours of birth) to be examined and treated, and then is transferred to yet another facility for specialized care.

It is important to note that, with the passage of the Vital Records Modernization Act (1/2014), what used to be considered a ‘courtesy’ birth certificate filing by hospitals is now a requirement. (For more information please see [ORS 432.088](#) which sets out legal responsibility and priority of reporters.) Therefore a facility is responsible for submitting the report of live birth when:

- a. The baby is born within the facility - regardless of whether baby or mother are transferred;
- b. The baby was born en route to the facility (usually a hospital); or
- c. The baby was born outside of the

facility and subsequently examined at a hospital facility within 24 hours of birth—ONLY if the baby was born in Oregon.

How do these requirements for responsibility to file the record of birth apply to the examples given above where responsibility may seem unclear?

- Baby is born in a moving vehicle (ambulance or otherwise) and taken to hospital

Who reports? The hospital birth clerk

This is an ‘en route’ birth. The place of birth is the address where the baby is first removed from the vehicle.

This is true even if the vehicle crosses a state line between birth and removal from the vehicle. If the place the baby is first removed is at the hospital, use the street address of the hospital.

- Baby born outside of a facility, birth was attended by licensed birth attendant; examined at hospital within 24 hours

Who reports? The hospital birth clerk - unless birth attendant has already created a record

Oregon law identifies the priority of reporters for births in ORS 432.088 (5). The law requires a hospital examining the child within 24 hours of the live birth to submit the report of live birth even if a doctor, nurse midwife, licensed direct entry midwife or a traditional midwife, attended the birth. If the attendant has already created a record in OVERS, do not create a duplicate. Place of

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Who is responsible for reporting birth (Continued from page 4)

birth would be the physical address where the birth occurred (private residence address in most cases) in Oregon – not the facility address.

- Baby born outside of facility, birth not attended by licensed birth attendant; examined at hospital within 24 hours

Who reports? The hospital birth clerk

Oregon law states that hospitals are required to submit the report of live birth through OVERS when a baby is born outside of a facility, without a birth attendant and the baby and mother are examined at the facility within 24 hours. Place of birth would be the physical address where the birth occurred (private residence address in most cases) in Oregon – not the facility address.

- Baby is born in one facility (hospital or freestanding licensed birthing center) and subsequently transferred to different facility (hospital or freestanding licensed birthing center)

Who reports? The birth clerk at the facility where birth occurred

Having a baby or mother transfer after the live birth occurs does not change the legal responsibility to report the birth. Even if the transfer occurred before the parent worksheet was completed, the facility where the birth occurred has the legal responsibility to submit the birth record.

- Baby is born outside a facility (such as a private home) and is brought into a facility (within 3 hours of birth) to be examined and treated, and then is transferred to yet another facility for specialized care

Who reports? The birth clerk at the first facility to examine and treat the baby

Although both facilities examine and treat the baby within the first 24 hours, the first to do so is responsible for reporting the birth.

In all cases, only births that occur within Oregon state lines can be submitted and registered here. If the baby was born in a neighboring state and examined in an Oregon hospital within 24 hours, the birth certificate must be created in the state of birth.

It is also important to note that legal responsibility to submit the record of birth is **not** dependent on the mother completing a parent worksheet. We encourage facilities to assist one another in collecting information from parents who have been relocated/transferred, particularly since all worksheets have standardized content. If a baby was transferred to your facility and the parent worksheet is needed by the transferring facility, please work with the parents to get a completed parent worksheet to the facility so they can submit the record of birth in a timely manner.

If you have any questions about responsibility to submit the record of birth, please contact Cynthia Roeser, Data Entry Supervisor ([cynthia.r.roeser@state.or.us](mailto:cynthia.r.roeser@state.or.us) or 971-673-0478). ❖

## Are you getting your birth certificates in on time ?

Oregon law requires every record of birth to be submitted with the Center for Health Statistics (CHS) for registration within 5 calendar days of the date of birth (Oregon Revised Statute 432.088 (1)). Both in-facility and out-of-facility births are required to follow this law. The birth record is considered submitted/ filed at the state when you certify the birth in **OVERS**.

**Why is timeliness important?** In addition to compliance with the law, parents cannot receive a certified copy of their child's birth certificate until it is officially registered with CHS. A certified copy of the birth certificate is needed by the parents for many legal purposes, such as applications for medical insurance. Timely filing ensures

parents are able to get these copies without worry or wait. Additionally, timely registration assures a shorter wait-time for the child's social security number to be sent to the parents.

**How is timeliness measured?** The following table shows the average number of days it took to certify a birth for births that occurred in August by county and facility. It also shows the percentage of births that were certified within 5 days. You can see from the table that some facilities could improve in meeting the timeliness requirements.

Statewide, 78% of the births are certified within 5 days of the date of birth. This is a slight improvement over last year's review of facility results. ❖

September 2015						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

*Note: In the original image, the date 15 is circled in red, and the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 are written in red on the calendar grid.*

Take a moment to look and see how your facility is doing.

County and facility of birth		Total birth records in August	Average days to certify birth	Percent of records certified within 5 days
<b><u>Baker</u></b>	St. Alphonsus Medical Center - Baker City, Inc.	9	2.2	100.0%
<b><u>Benton</u></b>	Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center	90	1.1	97.8%
<b><u>Clackamas</u></b>	Kaiser Sunnyside Medical Center	226	5.0	73.9%
	Legacy Meridian Park Medical Center	96	5.1	83.3%
	Providence Willamette Falls Medical Center	105	3.5	97.1%
<b><u>Clatsop</u></b>	Columbia Memorial Hospital	22	3.5	90.9%
	Providence Seaside Hospital	11	3.5	90.9%
<b><u>Coos</u></b>	Bay Area Hospital	55	3.3	96.4%
<b><u>Curry</u></b>	Bright Eyes Midwifery and Wild Rivers Womens Health	1	1.0	100.0%
	Curry General Hospital	3	6.3	33.3%

County and facility of birth		Total birth records in August	Average days to certify birth	Percent of records certified within 5 days
<b><u>Deschutes</u></b>	Bend Birth Center	5	8.8	60.0%
	St. Charles Medical Center - Bend	137	1.9	100.0%
	St. Charles Medical Center - Redmond	57	2.0	96.5%
<b><u>Douglas</u></b>	Mercy Medical Center	71	3.7	91.5%
<b><u>Grant</u></b>	Blue Mountain Hospital	7	7.0	28.6%
<b><u>Harney</u></b>	Harney District Hospital	9	8.3	66.7%
<b><u>Hood River</u></b>	Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital	44	2.5	97.7%
<b><u>Jackson</u></b>	Asante Ashland Community Hospital	20	5.0	60.0%
	Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center	141	3.6	98.6%
	Kalista Birth Sanctuary	4	23.3	0.0%
	Providence Medford Medical Center	43	2.2	95.3%
	Trillium Waterbirth Center	10	9.6	40.0%
<b><u>Jefferson</u></b>	St Charles - Madras	4	4.3	75.0%
<b><u>Josephine</u></b>	Asante Three Rivers Medical Center	54	2.7	98.1%
	Trillium Waterbirth Center - Redwood Clinic	2	16.0	0.0%
<b><u>Klamath</u></b>	Klamath Women's Clinic & Birth Center	1	10.0	0.0%
	Sky Lakes Medical Center	59	2.2	100.0%
<b><u>Lake</u></b>	Lake District Hospital	4	2.3	100.0%
<b><u>Lane</u></b>	McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center	81	7.9	14.8%
	Peace Harbor Medical Center	6	3.0	100.0%
	PeaceHealth Medical Group Nurse Midwifery Birth Center	10	2.5	100.0%
	Sacred Heart Medical Center - RiverBend	249	6.0	49.8%
	Sacred Waters - A Community Birthing Center	1	5.0	100.0%
<b><u>Lincoln</u></b>	Home Sweet Home Birth, LLC	1	1.0	100.0%
	Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital	13	2.2	100.0%
	Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital	17	6.7	94.1%
<b><u>Linn</u></b>	Growing Family Birth Center, LLC	1	7.0	0.0%
	Samaritan Albany General Hospital	59	2.3	100.0%
	Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital	31	3.6	90.3%
<b><u>Malheur</u></b>	St. Alphonsus Medical Center - Ontario, Inc.	41	2.2	100.0%
<b><u>Marion</u></b>	Aurora Birth Center	5	6.0	60.0%
	Salem Hospital	316	8.7	9.8%
	Santiam Memorial Hospital	6	1.7	100.0%
	Silverton Hospital	114	5.5	63.2%

County and facility of birth		Total birth records in August	Average days to certify birth	Percent of records certified within 5 days
<b><u>Multnomah</u></b>	Adventist Medical Center	93	5.1	77.4%
	Alma Midwifery Services, LLC	7	11.7	14.3%
	Andaluz Birth Center - Portland	6	5.5	66.7%
	Legacy Emanuel Medical Center	187	4.5	89.3%
	Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital and Medical Center	2	4.0	50.0%
	Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center	93	4.3	83.9%
	Legacy Mount Hood Medical Center	105	1.2	100.0%
	OHSU Hospitals and Clinics	199	3.1	96.0%
	Providence Portland Medical Center	252	4.6	73.8%
<b><u>Polk</u></b>	Bella Vie Gentle Birth Center	6	5.3	33.3%
<b><u>Tillamook</u></b>	Tillamook Regional Medical Center	18	6.8	33.3%
<b><u>Umatilla</u></b>	Good Shepherd Medical Center	44	2.8	100.0%
	St. Anthony Hospital	28	3.0	96.4%
<b><u>Union</u></b>	Grande Ronde Hospital	27	4.9	70.4%
<b><u>Wallowa</u></b>	Wallowa Memorial Hospital	5	10.5	0.0%
<b><u>Wasco</u></b>	Mid-Columbia Medical Center	28	3.4	96.4%
<b><u>Washington</u></b>	Andaluz Birth Center - Tualatin	2	3.0	100.0%
	Canyon Medical Center	8	7.8	50.0%
	Kaiser Foundation Hospital - Westside	123	3.6	89.4%
	Providence St. Vincent Medical Center	353	2.6	99.2%
	Tuality Community Hospital	58	3.6	82.8%
<b><u>Yamhill</u></b>	Providence Newberg Medical Center	59	4.7	88.1%
	Willamette Valley Medical Center	44	2.8	95.5%

## New vital record fees mean new forms

The state and county vital records' offices will create and distribute new versions of all forms that includes information regarding the fee for certified copies or the fee for amendments. The new vital records fees will be implemented starting January 1, 2016.

### What this means for you

- You can expect new order forms for certified copies of birth records from the county vital records office;
- You will receive a new supply of the notarized Acknowledgment of Paternity (also known as a paternity affidavit or Form 45-21) in early to mid-December;
- Hospitals will also receive, 45-31; and
- You will need to destroy older forms that have the incorrect fees for certified copies and for amendments.

As well, it is important to note that the paternity affidavits still meet all legal requirements, only the fees will be changing on the form. Therefore the current paternity affidavit should continue to be provided to parents throughout December.

During this time it will also be important to remind parents of the fee increase and to

ensure their paternity amendment is submitted in our office before January 1, 2016. If the paternity form amendment request is received in our office starting on or after January 1, 2016, then the processing of the paternity will be delayed. This is due to the difference in fees and will require the parents to send additional payment for any amendment requested on or after January 1, 2016.

This is another important reason we request all blank paternity affidavit forms at your facility, or used in your midwife practice, be destroyed in January.



Collection of Leaves, by Chiot's Run,  
<https://flic.kr/p/7dGDeb>

If you have any questions on the fees, please see the information available online at <https://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/Pages/2016-fee-rules.aspx>. ❖

## Wanted—Newsletter topics

Have a question or idea for a future newsletter article? Contact Judy Shioishi at 971-673-1166 or [judy.shioishi@state.or.us](mailto:judy.shioishi@state.or.us) Judy collects ideas for articles and shares them with the writing team.

**Thank you** to the contributors of this newsletter:

Jill Janisse, JoAnn Jackson, Ember Talent, Carolyn Hogg, Joyce Grant-Worley, Amanda Vega, Karen Hampton, Juana Anguiano-Rivera, Megan Welter, Lynda Jackson, and Jennifer Woodward.

### Frequent Contacts

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1year +, Johanna Collins 971-673-1137	<b>OVERS Help Desk</b> 971-673-0279

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Portland, OR 97232-2187

**Mailing address:** P.O. Box 14050  
Portland, OR 97293-0050

**General information:** 971-673-1190  
**Order vital records:** 1-888-896-4988

#### Website:

[http://  
public.health.oregon.gov/  
BirthDeathCertificates](http://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates)

#### OVERS website:

<http://healthoregon.org/overs>

