



P4150417, by Matt Brisher, <https://flic.kr/p/rTGDov>

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

March 2016

INSIDE

Use of State parent and facility worksheets is required 1

Birth clerk survey - We need your help! 2

Update birth attendant list..... 2

Births to surrogate mothers 3

Parent/parent certified copies for married couples 3

Do not share your OVERS user name or password..... 5

Joyce Grant-Worley—All About Her 5

Archived articles

Use of State parent and facility worksheets is required

It has been more than a year since the Center for Health Statistics (CHS) began requiring the use of standardized worksheets for all facilities and midwives that report births and fetal deaths unless use of customized birth worksheets have been pre-approved by the State Registrar. *Please do not use your own worksheets unless you have received pre-approval from CHS.*

Standardized collection of birth and fetal death information is essential to maintaining the consistency of vitally important public health data. For data to be useful for research, the same questions with the same possible answers must be asked. In 2015, there were more than 45,000 births reported in Oregon by over 300 birth clerks and midwives. Information from each birth record is combined to create public health data for Oregon. We need to know the same questions were asked in the same way for every record.

Staff at CHS also send each birth and fetal death record to the National Center for Health Statistics. The National Center for Health Statistics receives records from 57 different reporting jurisdictions and combines all records to create public health information for the United States as a whole. This includes thousands of facilities and tens of thousands of birth reporters nationwide. The broader the collection of information, the more important it is to have standardized questions for data consistency.

The small number of fetal deaths makes standardized worksheets even more important. Nurses and birth clerks at

(Continued on page 2)



State parent and facility worksheets (Continued from page 1)

most facilities in Oregon rarely complete these reports, parents have just suffered a loss and often need guidance in completing the worksheet, and uncertain causes for the loss make all health and medical questions more challenging and more important.

Prior to updating the Oregon standard

Birth clerk survey - We need your help!

Staff at the Center for Health Statistics recently reviewed "principal source of payment" data from birth certificates and found that some new and common payment sources are often misreported. The accuracy of payment source data is very important due to its use in determining health care needs in our state and nationally. We need your help! We need to know how YOU

Update birth attendant list

When creating a birth record, it is important to accurately report the correct title of the birth attendant. We ask that OVERS users always search for and select the attendant from the look up table provided on the Attendant/Certifier page rather than keying in the attendant and selecting the title from the drop down list.

To use the look up table, click on the magnifying glass appearing next to the "Attendant at Birth" tab; type in the attendant's last name; click on "Search", and select the attendant from the resulting list. The attendant's name, title and address will auto fill in the record. By using the look up table you will minimize errors on attendant title.

To make sure a birth attendant's title can be correctly selected in OVERS, we need facilities to provide us with an updated birth attendant form at:

worksheets, (likely in the next few months), we will notify you of the opportunity to submit draft customized worksheets for approval. Thank you for using the standard worksheet format for birth and fetal death worksheets. Please contact JoAnn Jackson, Registration Manager, at 971-673-1160 or joann.jackson@state.or.us if you have questions. ❖

collect and report the data. This is the first step in trying to decrease the number of misreported payment sources. Your experience reporting this data is extremely vital to this data improvement process. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey at the link below.

www.surveymonkey.com/r/chspaytype

We greatly appreciate your participation! ❖

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/RegisterVitalRecords/overs/Documents/birthattendform.pdf>

This will save time in the future by preventing amendments to the records. If you have any questions, please contact Cynthia Roeser, Data Entry Supervisor, by email at cynthia.r.roeser@state.or.us or at 971-673-0478. ❖

Health
PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
Center for Health Statistics

OVERS Birth Attendant Form

Fax completed birth attendant form to 971-673-1201

Use this form to request a birth attendant be added to the birth attendant database in the Oregon Vital Events Registration System (OVERS). Once a birth attendant name is added to the birth attendant database, it can be selected from the attendant page of a birth certificate or fetal death report in OVERS.

This form can be downloaded from the Center for Health Statistics website at: <http://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/RegisterVitalRecords/overs/Documents/birthattendform.pdf>

BIRTH ATTENDANT		
Birth attendant name:	(F,MI,L)	(L,MI)
Professional title:	<input type="checkbox"/> CNM /NP <input type="checkbox"/> DO <input type="checkbox"/> LDM <input type="checkbox"/> MD <input type="checkbox"/> ND	
Professional license number (Oregon Licenses only):		
National Provider Identifier (NPI):		

Births to surrogate mothers

What should you do when you are asked to change a birth record based on a court order?

Occasionally biological or legal parents request to be listed on the birth certificate at the hospital when they are having a surrogate mother deliver their baby. One or both partners may be the biological parent, and they feel a sense of urgency to be listed on the certificate as soon as possible. This urgency may be due to travel needs. Parents from another country who used a surrogate mother in Oregon may need to obtain a passport for the baby, so they can travel to their home country with the child. Or, the urgency could be as simple as the parents' misunderstanding how being listed on the certificate works when a surrogate mother is used. Many parents feel a court order gives them the right to be put on the birth certificate at the hospital. However, this is not the case.

What should be done in these situations?

1. The person who actually gives birth must be listed as the mother on the birth certificate; it is the law (Oregon Revised Statutes 432.088 (8)).
2. Do not give in to the pressure to add a parent by court order to the birth certificate at the hospital.
3. Explain to the parent or attorney that their court order will be used at Oregon

Parent/parent certified copies for married couples

Did you know married parents can request the certified copy of the birth record for their child to indicate a Parent/Parent relationship instead of Mother/Father? The current process is to contact the OVERS help desk, and ask our staff to change the record to "Yes – Parent/Parent" in OVERS. Effective

State Vital Records to put the biological or legal parent information on the birth certificate.

4. If they persist, call the Vital Records office for help.

Remember, we are here to support you and the work you do. For assistance call or email the following staff:

Debbie Draghia, Adoption Specialist, 971-673-1152 or email:

deborah.l.draghia@state.or.us

Carol Sanders, Manager of the Certification and Amendment Unit, 971-673-1178 or

email: carol.a.sanders@state.or.us ❖



It's a family portrait, by Michael Verhoef, <https://flic.kr/p/9copyPB>

March 1, 2016 this process will change and become much more convenient. OVERS will display two options for marital status: "Yes – Mother/Father" and "Yes – Parent/Parent." This change will eliminate the need to contact the help desk.

(Continued on page 4)

Parent/parent certified copies for married couples (Continued from page 3)

The new option continues to give same-sex married couples, and opposite-sex married couples, the choice to have non-gender-specific parental roles (Parent/Parent) reported on their child's birth record.

How do you do this in OVERS?

On the Marital Status screen (under the

Parent Information section), you will see the question "Was the Mother Married at Conception, at Birth or within 300 days prior to Birth?" When you click the drop-down list, you will see a new option to select: "Yes – Parent/Parent." By selecting this option, the system will produce the Parent/Parent version of the child's birth certificate. See below for where to locate this option within the OVERS system.

There is more: The Informant relationship will be changed, too!

The ability to select "Parent" for the Informant relationship will also be changed in OVERS. On the Informant screen, "Parent" has been added as a selection in the "Relationship of Informant to Baby" drop-

down list. Selecting "Parent" requires you to enter the Informant's first and last name. Please note: "Parent" refers to the parent of the *child* on the birth record, NOT the mother's parent. See below for where to locate this option within the OVERS system.

Parent/parent certified copies (Continued from page 4)

If you have questions on how to select these options in OVERS, you can contact the OVERS help desk at 971-673-0279. If you

have questions about when to select one of the new OVERS options, please contact Cynthia Roeser, Data Entry Supervisor, at 971-673-0478. ❖

Do not share your OVERS user name or password

All new users of the OVERS system are informed to keep their username and password confidential. Sharing usernames and/or passwords gives unauthorized people access to confidential medical information and violates The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy rules. In addition, sharing passwords

and/or allowing someone else to log in as you, compromises the integrity of OVERS.

If you have shared your password, please change it as soon as possible, and keep the new password confidential. Please call the OVERS Help Desk to change your password, or to ask questions at 971-673-0279. ❖

Joyce Grant-Worley – All About Her

Joyce Grant-Worley is retiring from state service after more than three decades.

Joyce is the manager of the Center for Health Statistics' Statistics Unit. The Statistics Unit manages our databases on all record types and produces statistical tables and narrative on vital events. The Statistics Unit also assists Registration in identifying records that might need further inquiry (veteran combat status, for example). The unit, and Joyce specifically, helps other Public Health programs and external researchers understand vital records data. Understanding the data is important to use information effectively for research and policy development.

Joyce was born in Oregon, moved out of state to attend Cornell University in New York for a master's degree, and then had the good sense to move back home.



How many years have you worked for the State? How many years with Vital Records?

I started working for the State on April 2, 1980 in the Employment Department. There was a break of a couple of years, and then I was back with the State in June 1984 but at the Public Health Division. I remember the date because my boss left on his honeymoon two days after I started and left me to talk to the press. So 36

years with a break and almost 33 years at Vital Records.

You have seen a few technical changes in vital records during that time. Which has been the most memorable and why?

There have been many changes in the technology, but the type of things we measure stays the same. We have always collected important information on births and deaths, for example. The method of

(Continued on page 6)

Joyce Grant-Worley (Continued from page 5)

collecting has changed several times.

The most memorable was the change in the cause of death coding. Public health nationwide went from the International Classification of Disease (ICD) Version 9 to ICD Version 10. It was the first time in twenty years that it had changed. We had to recreate all our programs for statistical tables. We also had to explain to researchers why some causes increased or decreased sharply in a single year as some deaths moved to new categories.

Another memorable time was when OVERS first started. In 2006, we started using the new system but it took over a year before we had statistical tables. We wanted to know how the new data looked and develop new programs for our tables, but we had no data to review! It's tragic when a geek is separated from their data.

What part of your job have you liked the most?

The puzzle solving – the human elements in collecting and using data. I will wonder why the data seems different and if I follow it upstream there will be someone who interpreted a single word differently and

completely different data came out of the process.

What legacy would you like to preserve at vital records?

I would like to see the old historical public health reports preserved and made available to the public. A lot of people spent time making those reports and they are part of the history of Oregon. Also, I have worked on many publications and 34 annual reports at the Center for Health Statistics. I started in 1984 but my first volume was 1981.

What is the post-vital records world going to look like for you?

Hopefully no death certificate for a long time. I will still be here most Fridays. I am volunteering with the Genealogical Forum of Oregon to index marriages that are now public records. And I need to de clutter my house.

Any famous words you want us to remember you by?

‘Never give me an original’ and ‘Draw me a picture’. Even if it is just a series of boxes, it helps me follow what the person is saying. ❖

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 Judy collects ideas for articles and shares them with the writing team.

Thank you to the contributors of this newsletter: Vivian Siu, James Burke, Jennifer Woodward, Carolyn Hogg, Krista Markwardt, Craig New, Karen Hampton, Karen Cooper, JoAnn Jackson, Cynthia Roeser, Megan Welter, Steven Baird, Debbie Draghia, Judy Shioishi, Lynda Jackson, Laura Munoz and Krystalyn Salyer.

Frequent Contacts

Paternities Debbie Gott 971-673-1155	Filiations Laura Munoz 971-673-1143
Death Corrections Patty Thompson 971-673-1163	Adoptions Debbie Draghia 971-673-1152
Birth Corrections <1 year, Amanda Vega 971-673-1169	Delayed Filings Patty Thompson 971-673-1163
1year +, Johanna Collins 971-673-1137	OVERS Help Desk 971-673-0279

CHS Managers

State Registrar Jennifer Woodward 971-673-1185	Certification Supervisor Karen Rangan 971-673-1182
Vital Statistics and Systems Manager Karen Hampton 971-673-1191	Amendments/Certification Manager Carol Sanders 971-673-1178
Registration Manager JoAnn Jackson 971-673-1160	
Data Processing Supervisor Cynthia Roeser 971-673-0478	

The Center for Health Statistics is located at:

800 N.E. Oregon Street, Suite 225
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>

