



# Matters of Record

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

Issue: November 2016

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### Archived articles

### Adoption expected question

When a mother states on the birth worksheet that she expects her baby to be adopted, there is one important result: the birth mother’s information is still collected on the initial birth record. By Oregon law, the live birth mother must be named on the birth record at the time of birth. Even if a court establishes different legal or biological parents prior to the birth, the live birth mother’s information must be submitted for registration.

CHS sends a file to the Social Security Administration based on the response to the question in OVERS. A Social Security number will always be assigned by the SSA when the question “Request SSN for Child” is marked “Yes, parent wants a card issued” in OVERS, regardless of if an adoption is expected.

If adoption is expected at the time of birth, it does not change whether voluntary acknowledgment of paternity forms can be signed and filed. If the mother and biological father want to sign an acknowledgment form, it should be filed without question, and the father’s name will be added to the birth certificate.

When adoption is expected because the birth mother is a gestational carrier or surrogate, the birth mother still needs to fill out the entire birth worksheet and she needs to provide her information. The birth mother may choose to name the baby with a name chosen by the adopting parents, but the adopting parents may not change the birth worksheet without the consent of the birth mother.

For questions about the adoption expected question, please contact Cynthia Roeser at 971-673-0478 or by email: [cynthia.r.roeser@state.or.us](mailto:cynthia.r.roeser@state.or.us). ❖



## The Training Corner –

The Parent wants to receive:  Mother/Father  Parent/Parent  
**Birth Certificates: How do I do that in OVERS?**

New functions in OVERS can be a challenge when they are not used often. A good example of this is the new ability for birth certifiers to indicate in OVERS that parents want a birth certificate indicating “Parent/Parent” instead of “Mother/Father”.

We introduced the functionality in March and added it to the parent birth worksheet in

May. Because we still receive several questions about this feature, we offer the following table as a quick reference guide showing what can be selected in OVERS and what will be on the certified birth certificates when the family gets them from the county or state vital records office.

Legal relationship	Selection for Certified Copies indicated on Parent Worksheet	Marital information selection in OVERS	Result to be printed on Certified Copies
Married	Mother/Father	Yes	Mother/Father certified copies
Married	Parent/Parent	Yes – Parent /Parent	Parent/Parent certified copies
Oregon Registered Domestic Partnership	Mother/Father or Parent/Parent	Oregon Registered Domestic Partnership	Parent/Parent certified copies*
Unmarried – with AOP	Mother/Father or Parent/Parent	No	Mother/Father certified copies**
Unmarried – without AOP	Mother/Father or Parent/Parent	No	Mother/Father certified copies***

\* Oregon Registered Domestic Partnerships are preset to Parent/Parent labels.

\*\* If the biological parents use an AOP and the parents would prefer to have Parent/Parent labels for certified copies, contact the OVERS help desk.

\*\*\* If mother is unmarried and father does not sign an AOP, the certified copies will appear as Mother/Father. However, if a second parent is added to the record, selection of Parent/Parent (if desired) can happen then at the State office.

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*The Training Corner (Continued from page 2)*

Our goal is to provide the parents with the type of certified copies they choose. We are happy to work with you whenever you have questions. If you have questions, please

contact Cynthia Roeser, Data Entry Supervisor, at 971-673-0478.

Please see below for where to find the Parent/Parent option in OVERS:

For a full description of the functionality and use, please see the article “Parent/parent certified copies for married couples” in the March 2016 newsletter. <http://>

[public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/RegisterVitalRecords/Pages/BirthNews.aspx](http://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/RegisterVitalRecords/Pages/BirthNews.aspx). ❖

## Fetal death disposition permits

There has been some recent confusion on when to provide a Fetal Death Disposition Permit. Some hospital staff have provided the permit for both live births that resulted in death as well as for fetal deaths. This is incorrect.

The Fetal Death Disposition Permit is **only** provided when a fetal death has occurred at your facility. Before the fetal remains are removed from the hospital for disposition, hospital staff must complete Fetal Death Disposition Permit and give it to the funeral director, or parent acting as funeral practitioner, who takes the remains from the

facility. The Fetal Death Disposition Permit is required any time the remains are removed from the hospital, regardless of whether a fetal death report is required. Do not provide a Fetal Death Disposition Permit for an infant who was born alive and then died. Separate forms and processes are required for this outcome.

The Fetal Death Disposition Permit gives permission to transport the remains and have final disposition at the location of burial or cremation. A cemetery or crematory cannot perform final disposition

*(Continued on page 4)*

*Fetal Death Disposition Permits (Continued from page 3)*

without the permit form. Family members cannot perform burial without the

disposition permit. The permit is available to hospital staff within OVERS (*see below*).

The screenshot displays the 'Fetal Death Registration Menu' for a record with ID 6629378, patient John Doe, dated OCT-06-2016. The interface includes a navigation menu on the left with categories: Personal Information, Medical Information, and Other Links. The main content area shows 'Print Forms' options: Disposition Permit, Statistical, and Working Copy Vault. A 'Return' button is located in the top right. Below the main content, there are two inset windows: 'Option A: Within Record' (pointed to by a red arrow) and 'Option B: Main Menu' (pointed to by a red arrow). The 'Option B: Main Menu' inset shows a 'Forms' tab selected, with a 'Print Forms' button and a list of forms: 'Birth Affidavit to Correct (45-25)' and 'Fetal Death Disposition Permit (45-3D)'.

More information on fetal death reporting can be found at <http://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/RegisterVitalRecords/Pages/InstructionsFetalDeath.aspx>.

If the parents wish to take custody of their *deceased infant* (one who was born alive, and then died), the parent is then acting as a funeral service practitioner and is responsible for completing a **death certificate** as well as following the laws related to disposition. The documents and information needed to do this is in the home burial packet. A home burial packet contains a death certificate to be completed by the parent and submitted to the county-of-death vital records office or to our state vital records office includes instructions on how to complete the death certificate, a burial tag, and contact information for the State Registration Manager. These packets are obtained by contacting JoAnn Jackson,

at 971-673-1160 or [joann.jackson@state.or.us](mailto:joann.jackson@state.or.us).

We ask that hospital staff call CHS and let us know any time human remains are released to a parent. Contact Cynthia Roeser, Data Entry Supervisor, by telephone at 971-673-0478 or by email at [cynthia.r.roeser@state.or.us](mailto:cynthia.r.roeser@state.or.us). Please provide Cynthia with the name and contact information of the parent, in case it is necessary for CHS to follow up with the parent. Follow up is necessary when CHS has not been notified.

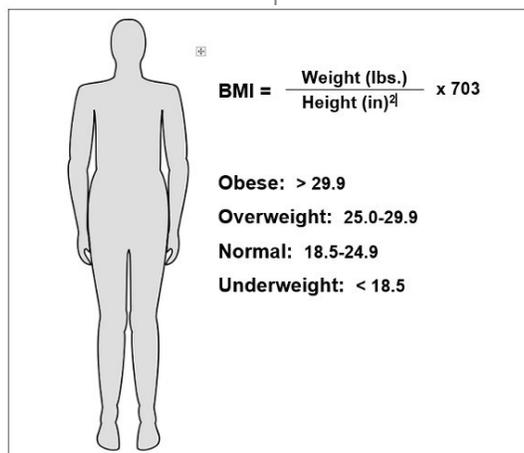
Any questions on Fetal Death Disposition Permits can be directed to Cynthia Roeser or to the State Registration Manager, JoAnn Jackson, by telephone at 971-673-1160 or by email at [joann.jackson@state.or.us](mailto:joann.jackson@state.or.us). ❖

## New statistics on pre-pregnancy BMI

The data you collect on pre-pregnancy height and weight is helping to uncover links between maternal weight and pregnancy outcomes. This information is used to calculate the mother's body mass index (BMI), which serves as an easy measure of body fat. People fall into one of four weight groups based on their BMI: underweight, normal (healthy weight), overweight and obese.<sup>1</sup> BMI data, especially when viewed with other factors such as race or education, can provide a clearer picture of the risks that excess weight places on mothers during pregnancy.

Prior to 2003, mother's height and weight were not collected on the standard birth certificate. In 2003, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) revised the standard certificate to include the mother's height, pre-pregnancy weight and weight at delivery. Oregon adopted the changes in 2008 and by 2014, 47 states and the District of Columbia had added these fields to their birth certificates.

Of course, just adding a blank for mother's height and weight does not mean it will be filled out properly. A recent national study<sup>2</sup> found that roughly 4% of birth certificates in the U.S. were missing data needed to calculate BMI.



Why does it matter?

The same study found that “[a]pproximately 50% of women who delivered a live-born infant in 2014 were either overweight (25.6%) or had obesity (24.8%) before becoming pregnant.” Oregon has not been immune to the trend. The percentage of women starting their pregnancy with higher-than-normal BMI has grown slightly from 48% in 2010 to 50% in 2015. A 2008 article in the *New England Journal of Medicine* showed that mothers with above-normal BMI used more health services than mothers with normal BMI. The authors found “increased rates of cesarean delivery,

gestational diabetes mellitus, preexisting diabetes mellitus, and hypertensive disorders” among these overweight mothers.<sup>3</sup>

The National Vital Statistics report states that “birth certificate data can be used to fill a vital gap in describing and tracking BMI.” The work you do in

collecting accurate pregnancy data goes a long way towards knowing how BMI affects a pregnancy. Reliable BMI data creates new opportunities for guiding both mother and child to a healthy pregnancy and delivery. ❖

<sup>1</sup>For a more detailed explanation of BMI, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyweight/assessing/bmi/>

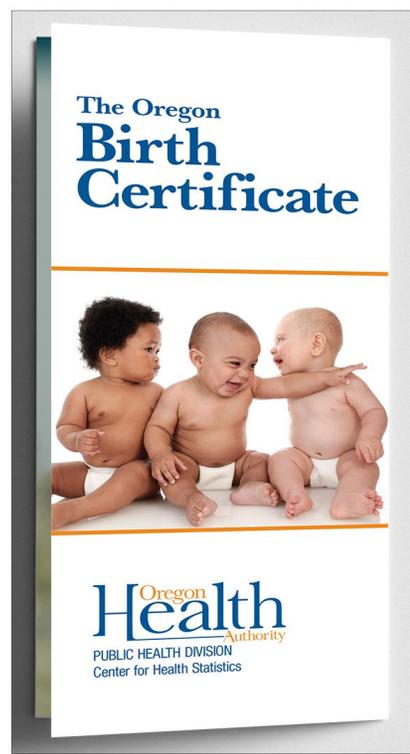
<sup>2</sup>Branum A, K. S. (2016, August 5). Prepregnancy body mass index by maternal characteristics and state: Data from the birth certificate, 2014. *National vital statistics reports*; vol 65 no 6. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

<sup>3</sup>Chu, S. Y., Bachman, D. J., Callaghan, W. M., Whitlock, E. P., Dietz, P. M., Berg, C. J., . . . Hornbrook, M. C. (2008). Association between Obesity during Pregnancy and Increased Use of Health Care. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 358, 1444-1453.

## The Oregon Birth Certificate Brochure – Coming Soon

We are updating our birth certificate brochure. It will have a new title, “The Oregon Birth Certificate”, and will be available in color. Please offer your patients and customers this updated version and feel free to dispose of the old ones.

To place an order to receive the brochures, please complete an order form located here: [https://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/RegisterVitalRecords/Documents/45\\_43B.pdf](https://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/RegisterVitalRecords/Documents/45_43B.pdf). ❖



## December deadline for feedback on updated worksheets

The Center for Health Statistics (CHS) is still collecting suggestions and comments on improving the parent and facility worksheets. Remember that the worksheets must conform to national standards, as well as follow the flow of the OVERS system. We will be collecting suggestions by mail or email to CHS through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016. Please mail or email your comments and/or proposed parent and facility custom worksheets to:

Cynthia Roeser  
Center for Health Statistics  
800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 225  
Portland, Oregon 97232  
[cynthia.r.roeser@state.or.us](mailto:cynthia.r.roeser@state.or.us)

If you have any questions, please contact Cynthia at 971-673-0478 or by email at [cynthia.r.roeser@state.or.us](mailto:cynthia.r.roeser@state.or.us). ❖

## 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 then shares them with the writing team.

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

Jennifer Woodward, JoAnn Jackson, Carol Sanders, Karen Hampton, Cynthia Roeser, Karen Rangan, Mike Golafshar, Karen Cooper, Jill Janisse, Judy Shioishi, Megan Welter, Carolyn Hogg, Kelly Stacey, Lynda Jackson, Craig New, and Krystalyn Salyer.

## We're just a phone call away

### Frequent Contacts

<b>Paternities</b> Debbie Gott 971-673-1155	<b>Filiations</b> Laura Munoz 971-673-1143
<b>Death Corrections</b> Derrick Patterson 971-673-1163	<b>Adoptions</b> Debbie Draghia 971-673-1152
<b>Birth Corrections</b> <1 year, Amanda Vega 971-673-1169	<b>Delayed Filings</b> 971-673-1147
1year +, Johanna Collins 971-673-1137	<b>OVERS Help Desk</b> 971-673-0279

### CHS Managers

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

## The Center for Health Statistics' office is located at:

800 N.E. Oregon St., 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>

OVERS website: <http://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/RegisterVitalRecords/overs/Pages/index.aspx>

## PUBLIC COUNTER HOURS

Walk-in hours are:

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Mon-Fri

Order by 3:30 PM for possible same day service.

