

# Vital Records

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In order to obtain birth and death certificates, marriage and divorce records, and other vital records, visit the following website hosted by the National Center for Health Statistics:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/howto/w2w/w2welcom.htm>

This site contains a directory of State and territory addresses for up-to-date information on where to write to for birth, death, marriage, and divorce records. Users will find that an official certificate of every birth, death, marriage, and divorce should be on file in the locality where the event occurred. Select the letter for the State or area where the event occurred and follow the provided guidelines to ensure an accurate response to your request. *Note: The Federal Government does not distribute certificates, files, or indexes with identifying information for vital records.*

Because all fees are subject to change, a telephone number is included in the information for each State for use in verifying the current fee. Web pages for some States are provided for obtaining current information.

You may need to include the information below that corresponds to the record you seek:

## **Records and Certificates**

- Full name(s) of person whose record is requested.
- Sex(s).
- Parents' names, including maiden name of mother for birth certificates.
- Month, day, and year of birth or death / marriage or divorce.
- Place of birth or death / marriage or divorce (city or town, county, and State; and name of hospital, if known).
- Type of final decree.
- Purpose for which copy is needed.
- Relationship to person(s) whose record is requested.

*For information for overseas births, deaths, citizenship and marriages, you can find it under "F" - 'Foreign or High-seas events' on the above website's main page.*