

Birth Certificates

The Division of Vital Records maintains records of births that occurred from 1906 to the present. Certified copies of birth certificates (with a raised seal) are issued and acceptable for various uses, such as:

- Personal identification
 - Employment
- Passport application
- Social Security

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING RIGHT-TO-KNOW LAW: Birth certificates maintained by the Division of Vital Records are not public certificates and, therefore, cannot be released under the provisions of Pennsylvania's Right-to-Know-Law. To determine if you are eligible to apply for a certified copy, please review the following:

Who May Request a Birth Certificate?

Only certain people can request a birth certificate. You must be:

- Person named on the birth certificate, who is 18 years of age or older (if under 18, immediate family member must apply)
 - Legal representative
 - Husband / wife
 - Parent / step-parent*
 - Brother / sister / half-brother / half-sister
 - Son / daughter / stepson* / stepdaughter*
- Grandparent / great grandparent (specify maternal or paternal)
 - Grandchild / great grandchild
- **Power of Attorney** (for person named on birth certificate or immediate family member listed above)

If the person named on the birth certificate is deceased, a family member who is not an immediate family member must submit a copy of the death certificate to be eligible to receive a certified copy of the birth certificate.

*A step-parent or step-child is required to submit parents' marriage record supporting their relationship.

Cost

There is a \$10 fee for each certified copy. This fee may be waived for individuals who served or are currently serving in the Armed Forces or their dependents.

How to Get a Birth Certificate

There are 3 ways to obtain a certified copy of a birth certificate. Be sure to complete all required information on the application form provided within each link:

1. [Order online](#)
2. [Request by mail](#)
3. In person at a public office (see 6 locations below):
 - [Erie](#)
 - [Harrisburg](#)
 - [New Castle](#)
 - [Philadelphia](#)
 - [Pittsburgh](#)
 - [Scranton](#)

What if the Year of Birth is Unknown?

An applicant may request a [multi year birth search](#).

Contact Us	
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